MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 JANUARY 1983

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Negotiations

At a meeting in Jerusalem between the Israeli negotiating team and U.S. envoys Philip Habib and Morris Draper, it was agreed that the expected Israeli-Lebanese agreement will replace all previous agreements, including the 1949 armistice agreement, thus meeting Israel's desire that Israeli-Lebanese relations henceforth rest on a new legal basis, Jerusalem radio reported. However, the dispute between Israel and the United States over security arrangements in Lebanon remains unresolved, Jerusalem television reported, and the Israelis rejected Habib's proposal that Americans man the early warning stations instead of Israelis. Asserting that the "center of gravity" of the talks on Lebanon has shifted from Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona to Jerusalem, IDF Radio noted that the U.S. and Israeli representatives will hold a further meeting on 19 January.

Lebanon, Israel, and the United States will decide at their 20 January meeting in Qiryat Shemona to establish three joint subcommittees on security arrangements, the withdrawal of foreign forces, and normalization, Jerusalem television reported. Meanwhile, diplomatic sources in Beirut cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said the U.S. negotiators are suggesting new proposals to undo some of the "knots" obstructing progress in the negotiations.

Syria

U.S. and Israeli talk about Syria's new sophisticated weapons is aimed at justifying "a large-scale aggression" against Syria and directly threatening it if Syria continues to resist the strategic U.S.-Israeli expansion in the Arab region, TISHRIN declared in a commentary reviewed by Damascus radio. Without mentioning Syria's acquisition of SAM-5's, TISHRIN said the United States and Israel "harp on" Syria's possession of new weapons, interpreting this as a strategic development facing the United States rather than a practical step to improve Syria's defensive capabilities.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Diplomatic Contacts -- Iraqi President Saddam Husayn arrived in Riyadh and discussed the Iraq-Iran war, the current Arab situation, and bilateral relations with Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, SPA reported. The Iraqi president returned to Baghdad after a brief visit to the Kingdom, according to Baghdad radio. In another development Egyptian President Husni Mubarak received a lengthy verbal message from Jordan's King Husayn on the results of the Jordanian monarch's visit to Washington and on his talks with President Reagan, MENA reported.

Arab-UK Relations -- Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi said that the seven-member Arab committee does not intend to visit Longdon unless there is a change in the "circumstances and implications" that led to the visit's postponement, KUNA reported citing a statement by the minister during a news conference in Kuwait.

PLO Affairs -- The PLO Executive Committee discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian situation -- particularly the situation in Lebanon -- during its concluding session in Damascus, San'a' Voice of Palestine radio reported. It added that a committee was formed under PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum to prepare for the 14 February PNC session. In another development the Damascus paper AL-BA'TH "castigated" PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's statements to the Cairo magazine AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in which he allegedly said the PLO is not asking Egypt to foresake the Camp David accords, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Meanwhile, a "ranking" Jordanian official in

Amman announced that Jordan's King Husayn and 'Arafat have not yet agreed on the names of Palestinian personalities who may participate in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the "anticipated" peace negotiations, according to the radio.

Libya

Reportage on U.S. Maneuvers -- The U.S. 6th Fleet's current "provocative terrorist maneuvers" off the Libyan coast confirm the "hostile course" of the U.S. Administration and illustrate its penchant for "intimidation, threats, and blackmail" against those who reject U.S. hegemony, Tripoli radio stated.

Al-Qadhdhafi in Bulgaria -- In a speech to Bulgarian leaders at a Sofia dinner, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said the Libyan-Bulgarian talks will enhance and expand bilateral cooperation, JANA reported. The two sides wish to adopt joint measures to confront imperialism and Zionism, the Libyan leader added.

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PLO TO ASK FOR MEASURES AGAINST BRITAIN

GF181950 Doha QNA in Arabic 1845 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, 18 Jan (QNA) -- It was announced here today that the PLO will present an official memorandum to the Fes summit Arab seven-member committee during its next meeting which is scheduled to be held in Rabat on 21 January under His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco.

An official Palestinian source said that the Palestinian memorandum will call for measures against Britain for its government's decision not to receive the PLO representative within the Arab seven-member committee.

'ARAFAT CHAIRS FATAH MEETING IN DAMASCUS 17 JAN

JN181705 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus -- The Fatah Central Committee met in Damascus last night under brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. During the meeting, a discussion of the current situation in the Arab region in general and in the Palestinian arena in particular was held.

Brother Abu 'Ammar explained in detail his vision of the future and the PLO's political moves in the future on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. He also reviewed the results of his recent talks and visits to several Arab countries and the USSR.

Meanwhile, the PLO Executive Committee has resumed meetings in the presence of Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the PNC, to prepare for the forthcoming PNC session in Algeria on 14 February.

'ARAFAT DEPARTS DAMASCUS FOR SAN'A' 18 JAN

JN181854 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee yesterday ended its meetings in Damascus. The committee held three meetings under its chairman, Yasir 'Arafat.

WAFA said that the meetings discussed the forthcoming PNC session due to be held in Algiers on 14 February. The PLO Executive Committee formed a committee headed by PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum to prepare for this session. Yasir 'Arafat also outlined the outcome of his recent tour of several Arab countries and the USSR.

Yasir 'Arafat today left Damascus for San'a'.

PALESTINIAN FACTIONS PRAISE SYRIAN STANCE

JN182031 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Tripoli -- Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF], has stated that the fifth [as heard] final statement of the Palestinian resistance factions stressed the importance of strengthening relations with Syria. The statement also condemned all attempts to harm Syrian-Palestinian relations, especially since Syria and the Palestinian revolution are founding members of the pan-Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, not to mention the relations which link the Palestinian revolution to Syria and Syria's role in supporting the Palestinian struggle in particular and the Arab struggle in general.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent in Tripoli, Dr Ghawshah added that the series of meetings and their results are an achievement on the road to escalation of the Palestinians' confrontation and are a step on the raod to bolstering Palestinian national unity on the basis of the commitment of the Palestinian National Charter and the PNC resolutions.

Dr Ghawshah denounced attempts by Arab reactionaries, the Jordanian and Egyptian regimes, to put pressure on the PLO and drag it into recognizing the Zionist enemy regime and criticized recent statements by the Iraqi regime calling on the PLO to recognize the Zionist entity.

Comrade 'Isam al-Qadi, Ba'th Party National Command member and secretary general of As-Sa'iqah, has also stated that what was achieved during the meetings of the Palestinian resistance factions in Libya is the beginning of joint action to confront the conspiracies that aim to liquidate the Palestinian cause and impose Zionist-U.S. hegemony on the Arab homeland.

He added: We came out of these meetings with a unified stand and proceeded on a sound course to confront these attempts, whose objective is to make us despair, to make us relinquish our rights, and to mislead us.

PALESTINIAN CALL FOR ISOLATION OF IRAQI REGIME

JN152000 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] A number of Palestinian leaders have denounced the Iraqi regime for its involvement in the U.S.-Zionist-reactionary plot aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause. An informed Palestinian source has stated that Dr George Habash, PFLP secretary general; Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-General Command; Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; and Comrade 'Isam al-Qadi, Ba'th Party National Command member and leader of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards-As-Sa'iqah forces organization have asserted that in the past the Iraqi regime used to pretend that it had hardline stands in an attempt to outbid the pan-Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and deceive the Arab masses.

During a meeting with Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the leadership of the 1 September Revolution in Libya, and Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, in Tripoli yesterday, the Palestinian leaders asserted that the Iraqi regime is not bankrupt and exposed before the Arab masses, particularly the Iraqi masses, because of its war against the Iranian revolution and its surrender and connivance with the Egyptian regime and the Camp David plots and its call for recognizing the Zionist entity. The Palestinian leaders Habash, Jibril, Ghawshah, and Al-Qadi said that Saddam Husayn's recent statements calling for Palestinian-Zionist negotiations are a link in the Iraqi regime's serious plots against the Arab nation and the Iraqi people and against pan-Arab causes headed by the Palestinian cause.

Quoting these leaders, the Palestinian source said that they demanded that the Iraq regime must be isolated and called for extending all kinds of political, moral, and material support for all the factions of the Iraqi national and progressive opposition forces so as to rid Iraq and the Arab nation of the disasters brought about by the agent regime of Saddam.

DFLP'S HAWATIMAH CALLS FOR PALESTINIAN UNITY

LD181530 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Algiers, 18 Jan (TAP) -- DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah has affirmed that the Palestinian resistance expects a bloody summer during which Israel will try to impose its conditions.

Hawatimah and PFLP Secretary General George Habash arrived in Algeria on Sunday. He affirmed the need for keeping the PLO united. He said national unity is our best weapon and it is the only weapon that can enable us to face up to the enemy attacks and ensure continuity of struggle.

He expressed opposition to all forms of pressure wherever they come from, affirming at the same time that the Palestinian people and the PLO are the only ones with the power to take the necessary decisions.

PLO RADIO CHIDES 'THOSE WHO CLAIM STEADFASTNESS'

JN181933 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Unattributed: "We Do Not Need Teachers"]

[Text] Our dilemma in the Palestinian arena does not arise from our people or ourselves but from the huge number of parasites who appoint themselves as our teachers, either from the premise that they are the advocates of pan-Arab and revolutionary slogans or that they are protecting the cause and its future.

When we were preparing to face the Zionist invasion of Lebanon at the beginning of last year, we asked one of these teachers to give us some heavy weapons along with the lectures and lessons to enable us to confront the aggression. What we received was an unlimited number of promises of the kind that will never be fulfilled. We swallowed our bitterness and said that perhaps this teacher's evaluations had indicated that the war would not take place. Therefore, we decided not to hold him to his promises until the war broke out. The war began and we called on this same teacher to fulfill his promises and commitments. A few days later, we received the promised aid; it was bountiful, consisting of many lectures and pieces of advice. When we asked about the weapons, we received no reply. It seemed that the Israeli tanks and U.S. planes could be repulsed by promises, theoretical reflections, and invitations. Despite all this we asked God to forgive them if they were unaware of what was taking place. We proceeded with the war and the siege, depending only on ourselves and expecting no aid from any other party, whether or not it spoke the language of the reactionaries or that of the progressive parties.

Despite all this, and this is our right, we hoped that those who had left us alone to fight would not waste our time by sending us pieces of advice and theoretical reflections. Whether they had sufficient time to write them or to hire others to write them on their behalf, we had no time to read them because we were in a state of war. We were very happy when their contribution consisted of leaving us alone in the war without burdening us with their interference. We thanked God Almighty for this pan-Arab stand and devoted ourselves to our battle with a clear conscience, reassured that the age of interference had departed and that those who had given us pieces of advice and claimed to be our theorists preferred to remain silent after failing to support us even with a single gunshot.

Our happiness with this development did not last more than a few days. While we were the target of some hundreds of thousands of rockets and missiles in Beirut and were in need of a drop of water or some medicine, not to mention the farfetched dream of a plane or bomb, we received a letter from one of the teachers calling on us to commit suicide. We were surprised by this invitation because the teacher who had sent it was thousands of miles away and had not suffered what we were suffering in Beirut. At that time we replied to him in a courteous manner and told him: Teacher, there is no need for worry; we wish you happiness. We asked God Almighty for the thousandth time to help us, not only in shouldering the burden of the destruction and death, but also to endure what is worse than death: the messages we received by radio and other means, telling us how to die and not how to save the revolution.

The Beirut battle ended and we wished that the teachers who had showered us with pieces of advice had experienced even one hour of this battle. We surmised that ethics, or the remnants of these ethics, would prevent those who had not fought from vilifying those who fought. This, however, was not granted us, because immediately after our departure from Beirut the teachers opened fire on us. For what reason? Because we did not commit suicide and succeeded in getting out of the battle with our heads raised high, carrying our guns, and announcing that we would pursue the march until victory.

In reviewing this story, we have no intention of attacking anyone, not because we are afraid or are in need of funds for which we are ready to make truces, but because propriety forbids strugglers to attack those who did not struggle and it does not befit the heroes of steadfastness to reply to those who claim steadfastness while they are overseas.

For the last time, we say that we no longer need teachers because part of our mission throughout history has been to export teachers to the world at large. What we need is to sense some shame on the part of some of the brothers who, after leaving us alone in the battle, are now preparing to drag us into imaginary battles or empty stands which collapsed during the Beirut battle, the battle of the Palestinian and Lebanese glory.

PALESTINIANS SELECTED FOR FUTURE PEACE TALKS

GF171940 Doha QNA in Arabic 1919 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Doha, 17 Jan (QNA) -- Citing what it calls well-informed sources in Amman, the Qatari paper AR-RAYAH reports today that during their recent talks in the Jordanian capital the Jordanian and Palestinian sides agreed to name the members of the Palestinian delegation that would participate together with the Jordanian delegation in any peace talks, negotiations, or activity that Jordan may embark upon.

AR-RAYAH says that the Palestinian delegation will include Rashad ash-Shawwa, who will represent the Gaza Strip, Anwar al-Khatib [governor of Jerusalem], Ilyas Frayj [mayor of Bethlehem], Jamil Sabri Khalaf, Hikmat al-Masri [a former mayor of Nabulus] and Fahd al-Qawasimi [deported mayor of Hebron] as representatives of the occupied West Bank.

MAHMUD 'ABBAS TO REPRESENT PLO AT ARAB MEETINGS

LD151500 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Rabat, 15 Jan (KUNA) -- A KUNA correspondent has learned that Mahmud 'Abbas is to head the PLO delegation to the joint meeting of the Jerusalem Committee and the seven-member committee on 21 January in Marrakech under the chairmanship of King Hassan II of Morocco.

Mahmud 'Abbas is due in Rabat on Monday for this purpose. He will also hold further talks on the visit of the seven-member committee delegation to London.

It has also been learned in Rabat from Syrian Embassy sources that 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, foreign minister of Syria, will be absent from this meeting. Syria will be represented by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs.

OPEC 'OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN' ON UPCOMING MEETING

LD182154 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1436 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Vienna, 18 Jan (KUNA) -- An official spokesman at the headquarters of the OPEC Secretariat said that the emergency ministerial meeting of the organization, to be held at the end of this week, would be incapable of making any decisions unless it was changed into an extraordinary conference in a proper way. The spokesman, Hamid Zuhayri, described the meeting to be held on 23 January as "a consultation meeting."

Zuhayri informed KUNA: "The ministers will have to change the meeting into an extraordinary conference in accordance with OPEC's Charter if they make decisions on anything."

Some petroleum industry experts consider this meeting the last opportunity for agreement on maintaining the international petroleum organization's production at 18.5 million barrels per day, which is the ceiling announced by the 66th ordinary OPEC conference, which was held here last December. Despite the fact that the aforementioned conference failed in allocating each country's share of the total production, it is likely that this matter will be the main topic of the forthcoming meeting, in addition to the matter of raising prices, which is not thought to be unlikely by some circles.

OPEC TO DISCUSS LOWER BENCHMARK PRICE IN GENEVA

AU180942 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 18 Jan 83 p 8

[Special DIE PRESSE report]

[Text] Vienna -- A reduction of the crude oil benchmark price -- at present $34 per barrel -- will be the central topic of an OPEC ministers conference that has been convened for next Sunday in Geneva. The decision to hold such a special ministers conference was adopted last weekend at a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Vienna OPEC Secretariat has meanwhile confirmed the convening of the Geneva conference. The reason for the unexpected meeting: Overproduction and undercutting of prices continue in the oil market, and the benchmark price is exposed to increasing pressure. Saudi Arabia is said to have already granted a price reduction of $2 per barrel to U.S. companies operating in that country.

VENEZUELA TO SUPPORT OPEC PRODUCTION DROP

PA181919 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2353 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Caracas, 17 Jan (LATIN-REUTER) -- Mines and Energy Ministry officials have said that Venezuela will support any proposal to reduce oil production at the OPEC emergency meeting to be held on Sunday in Geneva but will not accept a quota lower than 1.9 million barrels per day. A source said "we could drop to 1.9 million barrels per day but not more."

Venezuela currently produces 2.1 million barrels per day after reaching a peak of 2.3 million barrels per day late last year. Venezuela's quota is substantially greater than the 1.5 million barrels per day set by OPEC in March. The sources said that Venezuela cannot accept a quota lower than 1.9 million barrels per day for budgetary reasons and that this could be a great obstacle to reaching an agreement at the meeting.

They added that OPEC is making every effort to reach 20 million barrels per day to cover budgetary demands. Its current production is 18.5 million barrels per day. "The key issue in Geneva will be the need to balance OPEC's budget in view of the need to balance supply and demand," the sources added.

BAHRAIN

AMIR, LEBANESE DELEGATION DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS

GF151410 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] The amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, today received the Lebanese parliamentary delegation headed by Louis Abu Sharaf, Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil's envoy.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and acting prime minister, and Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign affairs minister.

In a statement following the meeting, Mr Abu Sharaf said he delivered a message to the amir of Bahrain from Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil on the current developments in the Lebanese arena and Lebanon's stand on the current negotiations with Israel concerning the withdrawal of the invasion forces from its territories.

He said: The amir of Bahrain showed an alert understanding and an honest and sincere response to Lebanon, its president, and people concerning the current situation in Lebanon.

He said that he discussed with the amir of Bahrain the issue of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations, which in the view of the Lebanese Government are based on uniting Lebanon, liberating its territory, and protecting its right, unity, sovereignty, and dignity.

He lauded Bahraini-Lebanese relations and said that what ties Lebanon to Bahrain are common historical relations and qualities of the two peoples. He hoped that all the Arabs will understand Lebanon's stand and respond to it, so that it can put an end to its distress, which if continued will have disastrous consequences for all the Arab countries.

He said he will complete his current tour with a visit to Muscat tomorrow and that he will visit San'a' and Aden later.

KUWAIT

OIL MINISTER ON PRODUCTION, OPEC MEETING

GF181724 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 17 Jan 83 p 1, 13

[Excerpts] In a statement to AL-WATAN, Oil Minister Shaykh Khalifah as-Sabah has called for distributing sacrifices concerning OPEC's production quotas. However, he said: "The ball is not in our court now."

On whether he is optimistic about the meetings which followed the OPEC ministers' meeting, he said: "I am always optimistic; but if the thing which I am optimistic over is not achieved, this means my optimism will be out of place for the first time.

AL-WATAN asked the minister: "In case no agreement is reached by the OPEC members, what stand will Kuwait and the Gulf states adopt to avoid what will happen in the next 4 months?"

Shaykh Khalifah replied: "I believe everyone will defend his market and he will not be blamed for that. Do not forget that we in Kuwait have our expenses required by the economy, society, and the other areas such as schools, hospitals, the government sector, streets, and various services."

"We cannot ignore this and continue to make sacrifices indefinitely," the minister said, adding: "And I cannot justify the current production level because [oil] should be preserved for the coming generations. If we view the current production, we see that it will stay for 300 or 400 years, taking any figure you want. The current generations will ask: 'Where is our share?' Also, we cannot stop the projects we have started or say to a student's father: 'We cannot get your son into school.' These are matters that all are supposed to understand. I hope we will reach an agreement because an agreement is better than disagreement."

TUNISIA'S ES-SEBSI MAKES PREDEPARTURE STATEMENT

LD181420 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0951 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Jan (KUNA) -- The Tunisian foreign minister, Beji Caid es-Sebsi, said today that contacts are still continuing among the Arab countries with a view to implementing the Arab peace plan adopted at the Fes summit conference last September.

Addressing a news conference on leaving Kuwait this morning at the end of his 2-day visit, Es-Sebsi said that the seven-member Arab committee does not intend to visit the British capital at present unless there is a change in the circumstances and implications that led to its postponement.

The Tunisian foreign minister met with the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad; with the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, and with the foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad. He also met with the Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who paid a few hours' visit to Kuwait yesterday.

The Tunisian foreign minister added that his country adheres to the Arab peace plan adopted at the Fes summit conference despite the fact that it is not the ideal and just solution for the Middle East problem or the Palestinian question. He described the plan as "the safest solution and the best that can be attained in the present international conditions and realities."

He affirmed that this is the only plan, as far as the Arabs are concerned, and efforts are being exerted to insure its success and implement it.

Referring to the other plans put forward by Reagan and Brezhnev, and the Egyptian-French plan, Es-Sebsi said that one's sense of responsibility demands that these plans be studied and evaluated to determine their positive and negative aspects. He affirmed that the Fes summit conference did not ignore the plan put forward by U.S. President Reagan in view of the weight the United States enjoys and the role it can play in pressuring Israel.

He said that the seven-member Arab committee has expounded the dimensions and objectives of the Arab plan and that if favorable conditions come to exist, it can be implemented.

He said that the committee met with some difficulties even before it embarked on its visit to the British capital because of certain conditions which the government of Mrs Margaret Thatcher tried to impose on it. We felt that these conditions were unjust and unacceptable and infringe on Arab dignity and hence it was decided to postpone the visit until conditions change.

It is not the task of the committee to enter into altercations with the other countries but to win their support to create a more favorable condition for the Arab action.

As long as the conditions conveyed to the committee still exist, there will be no visit. But once the conditions and implications change, then the possibility of the committee making the visit will be considered after consultations among its members and after hearing the views of King Hassan II on the matter.

Asked if the Arab countries will adopt a special stand toward Britain as a result of the announcement of its conditions, Es-Sebsi said that the committee deals with matters with a sense of reason and responsibility and not emotionally. It works for a just cause and faces a bitter enemy who possesses all means of pressure and action and hence "we must face him with all the means that can insure the realization of our objectives."

He affirmed that the seven-member Arab committee will meet in Morocco on 21 January under the chairmanship of King Hassan II who will later preside over meetings of the Jerusalem Committee.

Es-Sebsi denied that his current tour is connected with pressures said to be brought to bear on Tunisia because of its overzealous serving of the pan-Arab cause and its activities in serving the Palestinian cause. He said that Tunisia is a country of principles and makes sacrifices for the sake of its principles. He added that the Tunisian people are ready to make sacrifices and even die for the sake of the Palestinian question and to bear the consequences of this on their own without the support of anyone, for the sake of their pan-Arab duties. He said that the visit was for consultation only because the Arabs need such consultation to avoid the adoption of individual stands.

He said that it is clear that the United States is working seriously for the implementation of the Reagan plan, particularly as it, more than any other country, is able to pressure Israel. America's seriousness in bringing this pressure to bear can [words indistinct] the evacuation of the Israeli forces from Lebanon. The United States has pledged to bring about such a withdrawal and has actually exercised varying degrees of pressure. On this basis, we can test America's credibility in its other plans.

Asked what King Husayn meant by saying that March was the last opportunity for peace, Es-Sebsi said that the Jordanian monarch must have certain information that prompted him to say this while we on our part have no such information about his contacts in this regard.

Speaking of the greater Arab Maghreb, Es-Sebsi said that this is an old ambition for the sake of which many of our Arab Maghreb youth have been martyred. Considerable progress has been made toward the achievement of this goal through the economic consultative committee for the greater Arab Maghreb, he said. The establishment of such a structure, he said, demands that there not be any problems, "but unfortunately problems have existed for some time as a result of the imperialist conditions that prevailed for long in the area and left a significant residue." He affirmed that efforts are continuing to achieve this objective and that the idea is still rife in the hearts of the peoples and leaders of the area.

He said that Tunisia was the first country to greet and bless the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] because "it is a sound Arab action." He attributed the successful establishment of the GCC to the fact that the Gulf countries have similar regimes and enjoy one language and one religion. He added that the "success of the GCC provides the best example to be followed by the Arab Maghreb countries."

Es'Sebsi denied that there is any contradiction between his country's present attitude and the plan put forward by President Habib Bourguiba in the 1960's. He said that Tunisia's attitude is clear and that President Bourguiba supported the cause since 1940's. In this context, Es'Sebsi reviewed the views made in this regard by President Bourguiba in Jericho in 1965.

He also recalled how Israel realized its objectives while the Arabs failed to do so and said that Tunisia put forth a plan calling for a return to international legitimacy [as received]. Then came the adoption of the unified Arab peace plan at the Fes summit conference. He said that Tunisia does not impose its views on anyone and abides by the unanimous decisions of the Arabs and by what the PLO wants for the Palestinian cause.

He admitted that the OAU is passing through hard times pointing out that the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement and other international organizations and movements are also passing through such hard times. He said that he is afraid lest the OAU becomes divided "but temporary measures have been taken to save it."

He affirmed that the African countries adhere to the OAU and are working to help it overcome the current difficulties.

He denied that there is any (?Tunisian) mediation in the Western Sahara problem, affirming at the same time that Tunusia always support, all that leads to Arab harmony and solidarity.

QATAR

SYRIA'S KHADDAM ARRIVES IN DOHA WITH AL-ASAD MESSAGE

GF171341 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1220 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Doha, 17 Jan (WAKH) -- 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, arrived in Doha from Bahrain today on a short visit to the state of Qatar within a tour of a number of the region's states.

In a statement following his arrival, Khaddam said that he is carrying a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to the amir of Qatar, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, dealing with the current Arab situation, especially with regard to [words indistinct] through the negotiations, which are not only aimed at smashing the national security of Lebanon, but also the national security of the entire Arab nation. He said: This matter is Syria's major concern and we will discuss it with our brothers during this tour.

Comments on Lebanon Talks

GF181020 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Doha, 18 Jan (WAKH) -- Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, has emphasized that the conditions Israel is trying to impose on the Lebanese state through the negotiations on the withdrawal will affect the national security of the Arab nation, Lebanon, and Syria.

In a statement to the Qatari paper AL-'ARAB published today, Khaddam noted the negotiations taking place between Lebanon and the Zionist enemy and said: "Nobody discussed the withdrawal with us even though there are negotiations currently taking place. Besides, Israel is trying to impose conditions on the Lebanese state."

On the Arab stance toward Britain for its position on the seven-member committee, the Syrian minister noted that this matter is being tackled by the committee chairmanship. Khaddam praised the stances of Qatar on the national issues and its role in reinforcing the Arab unity for the best interests of the Arab nation and its fateful issues.

He added: "I conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al Thani dealing with the situation in the region and the developments of the Arab-Israeli dispute in Lebanon. His highness gave me a message for President al-Asad."

LEBANESE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DOHA FOR TALKS

GF190706 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Text] Doha, 18 Jan (WAKH) -- A Lebanese parliamentary delegation led by Dr Amin al-Hafiz, former prime minister and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Lebanese National Assembly, arrived in Doha tonight on a 2-day visit to Qatar within the framework of a tour of a number of Arab countries. During the visit, the Lebanese delegation will hold talks with Qatari officials on the current situation in Lebanon.

Upon arrival Dr Amin al-Hafiz made a statement in which he said that he carries a written message from Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil to Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani dealing with the current situation in Lebanon and the circumstances experienced, which entail the cooperation of the Arab brothers with Lebanon and their support for its stances to enable Lebanon to get rid of the Israeli occupation and resume its sovereignty over its territories.

He added that he will review the Lebanese issue from all its sides with Qatari officials in order to reach conclusions for the good of Lebanon and of the Arab nation as a whole. Dr al-Hafiz demanded that support be granted to Lebanon to enable it to confront all the current difficult duties with the aim of eliminating the Israeli occupation and ensuring Lebanon's sovereignty and dignity.

SAUDI ARABIA

IRAQ'S SADDAM HUSAYN ARRIVES IN RIYADH 18 JAN

LD181618 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 18 Jan (SPA) -- The Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn, arrived in Riyadh at 1730 today on a visit to the Kingdom. His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was at the airport to welcome him.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, also arrived on board the same plane.

Meets With Fahd

LD181734 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Riyadh, 18 Jan, SPA -- His Majesty King Fahd ib 'Abd al-'Aziz met with His Excellency Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi president, who arrived in Riyadh earlier this evening. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and commander of the National Guard.

The current Arab situation, headed by the Iraq-Iran war, as well as bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries were reviewed during the meeting.

COMMENTATOR ON SOVIET 'QUAGMIRE' IN AFGHANISTAN

LD181318 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jan 83

['Abd ar-Rahman Mansur az-Zamil commentary]

[Excerpts] It is widely accepted that the Babrak Karmal regime in Afghanistan relies on the Soviet Army and not on the Afghan forces. Reports from Kabul have stressed that the proportion of Soviet forces to Afghan forces is less than one to one, and since the blatant Soviet invasion of Afghanistan the Afghan forces have suffered an increasing shortage as a result of many of their forces deserting and joining up with the Muslim Afghan mujahidin.

Without any doubt, the Afghans' escalation of their struggle has been very costly and expensive to the Soviet Union in return for its occupation of Afghanistan, in addition to losing its international reputation, especially in the countries of the Third World.

Political analysts say that Moscow could withdraw from Afghanistan to spare itself further losses. Proof of this is the desire of the Kremlin leaders to achieve a solution for the crisis. Political reports point out that senior Soviet intelligence officers are relentlessly seeking a formula which would rid them of the spot (?they are) in in Afghanistan, about which one senior Soviet leader on one occasion said: Afghanistan is our Vietnam. We have fallen in the quagmire of a war which cannot be won and cannot be abandoned. It is comical; it is a tragedy.

In any event we must know that the Soviet Union has shed the lamb's fleece it often paraded in and has exposed the claws of the wolf which mercilessly devours complete peoples, disregarding their right to self-determination of their future. Moreover, this issue is rightly considered one of the most prominent problems threatening detente, with all the results -- that is, alliances and blocs -- that this involves.

UAE

SYRIA'S KHADDAM PAYS 1-DAY VISIT TO ABU DHABI

GF171826 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1743 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Jan (WAM) -- 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, arrived in the country from Doha this evening on a 1-day visit to the UAE on another leg of his current tour of a number of the region's countries.

Delivers Message

GF180532 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Jan (WAKH) -- UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received an oral message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with bilateral relations and the current situation in the Arab arena. This message was conveyed by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, during an audience with the UAE president last night.

Khaddam had arrived in Abu Dhabi earlier within a tour of Gulf co ..tries.

Concludes Visit

GF180912 Doha QNA in Arabic 0655 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Jan (QNA) -- 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, left Abu Dhabi for home today after concluding a 1-day visit to the UAE and thus finishing his tour of a number of the region's countries.

Before his departure, Khaddam met with chief of the president's office Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, with whom he discussed a number of issues dealing with bilateral relations and current Arab developments. Yesterday the Syrian minister conveyed a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan dealing with Syria's views on current Arab developments in the wake of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the enemy's continued attempts to impose its hegemony on the Arab nation.

NUMBER OF FOREIGN BANKS REDUCED BY HALF

GF161224 Doha QNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Dubayy, 16 Jan (QNA) -- It was announced here today that about 41 branches of foreign banks in the UAE will be closed during the current year in implementation of the Central Bank's decision to reduce the number of foreign banks operating in the country from 83 branches to 8. AL-BAYAN, published here, said that the first stage of this decision was implemented last year, when half of the branches were closed, and that the second stage will be completed this year by closing the rest of the branches.

LEADERS CONFER WITH U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Meeting With Mubarak

NC181138 Cairo MENA in English 1112 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Cairo, Jan 18 (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak received today a delegation of American congressmen currently visiting here under William Gray, deputy chairman of the Congress parliamentary body.

Foreign Minister's Comments

NC181658 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today met with a U.S. congressional delegation representing the African Affairs Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations committee.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali emphasized to the delegation that Egypt's policy in Africa is based on support for all African states, the consolidation of bilateral relations with them, and the strengthening of these relations in the various domains. Egypt's policy also underlines the need for the preservation of the OAU and for ending disputes within it. He pointed out that Egypt has ideas in this respect.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said Egypt has dispatched a diplomatic delegation that includes a number of African affairs experts led by Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador 'Imran ash-Shafi'i. The delegation is now touring a large number of African states to discuss means to preserve the OAU and to settle its current problems. As for the situation in Namibia, the deputy prime minister affirmed that Egypt supports the struggle of the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO (South-West African People's Organization) for independence and the ending of the fascist racist domination.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali also emphasized to the U.S. congressional delegation that Egypt adopts the stand of the African confrontation states, which are subjected to constant aggressive actions by the forces of the facist racist government in South Africa. Egypt also supports these states' stand against this enemy. Egypt adopts the stand of the OAU in this respect and encourages the process of linking the withdrawal of the fascist racist forces from Namibia and the granting of independence to Namibia with other issues.

During the meeting Kamal Hasan 'Ali spoke about the situation in the Western Sahara. He stressed Egypt's support for the right of self-determination in the disputed area and the need for a way to achieve this right. In this respect Egypt supports the resolution the OAU issued in Nairobi in 1981 regarding the right of self-determination and the settlement of this problem peacefully in order to preserve the OAU.

Regarding the situation in the Horn of Africa, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister emphasized that Egypt supports the solution of disputes in this area by peaceful means and within the framework of the OAU.

He also stressed that Egypt always seeks to strengthen and improve its relations with the states of the Nile Basin and to consolidate constructive cooperation in a manner that will bring progress and prosperity to the peoples of these states. Egypt also works to support continuously the legitimate Government of Chad.

During the meeting, which lasted approximately 90 minutes, Kamal Hasan 'Ali explained to the U.S. congressional delegation the various aspects of the Middle East problem and the peace process. He said it is necessary for Israel take measures to build confidence among the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza sector and to halt the building of settlements, which Egypt rejects and considers as a basic obstacle to the peace process.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali also affirmed Egypt's readiness to enter into the expanded negotiations on the basis of U.S. President Reagan's initiative. He said: We hope Israel will take flexible stands that will encourage the expansion of these negotiations.

Referring to the current talks between the PLO and Jordan and the question of the proposed confederation, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: We support these talks. He also spoke about the sensitivities within the PLO and said these must be understood in order to help the PLO resolve its problems.

The U.S. congressional delegation briefed Kamal Hasan 'Ali on its current tour of Africa, various African issues and what had taken place during the African-American cooperation conference which was held in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, earlier this month.

The U.S. delegation focused on the current situation in Namibia and the need for its speedy indepednece from the Government of South Africa, which refuses to implement the UN resolutions in this respect.

The U.S. congressional delegation arrived in Cairo yesterday, Monday, as part of its current tour of a number of African states.

Prime Minister's Discussion

NC182041 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] During his meeting this evening with a U.S. congressional delegation led by William Gray, Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din discussed the latest developments in the Middle East and the efforts currently being made to establish just and comprehensive peace in the area. The situation in Lebanon was also reviewed. Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din emphasized the need for intensifying efforts to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East.

MENA DENIES REPORTED EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN CONTACTS

NC182124 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2058 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA) -- The Saudi paper AL-MADINAH AL-MUNAWWARAH reports today that contacts are underway to improve relations between Egypt and Libya. The paper mentions specific figures who it claims are carrying out these contacts. They include journalist Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal, the leader of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping party Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, and Ashraf Marwan.

According to responsible sources, MENA can confirm that these figures have no connection with the question of relations between Egypt and Libya and that the reference to contacts by them is baseless.

ROSE AL-YUSUF VIEWS EGYPTIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS

PM141427 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 10 Jan 83 pp 16, 17, 68, 69

['Abd as-Sattar at-Tawilah article from Moscow: "Moscow Wonders: Ice Has Thawed at This End, When Will it Thaw in Cairo?"]

[Excerpts] The temperature in Moscow is 15 below zero and the ice has turned the wide streets and low houses into bright white deserts and hills. Yet Moscow is living warm and joyful days as 270 million people celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the first united state of soviet socialist republics.

At the beginning I though that the warmth with which all the Soviet people I met talked about Soviet-Egyptian relations was a delegation of the general warm atmosphere on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the USSR. But in fact I have discovered that the ice in relations between the two countries began to thaw more than a year ago, or specifically, as one Soviet official said, when President Husni Mubarak said in his inaugural speech that "we will not be part of anybody's strategy and Egypt adheres to the policy of nonalignment." We were optimistic, the official said, "and so the ice began to thaw in Moscow, but it does not seem to have begun doing so in Cairo."

Laughing a little, I said: "We have no ice in Egypt."

The Soviet official said: "What is the synonym for 'thaw' in your country?"

Something similar; we say warmth has replaced cold in relations.

This optimism is felt by any Egyptian who talks to any Soviet official or to those who take part in decision-making such as professors or research institutes and academies of learning (which are numerous) and leading journalists. The impression gained is that the Soviet Union desires to improve relations with Egypt sooner rather than later. They do not conceal this desire, which stems from a deep, realistic view.

They do not hope or even dream that relations with Egypt will return to what they were in their golden era of the late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir and the early days of late President Anwar as-Sadat's rule.

They merely want to normalize relations between the two countries and leave any potential improvement to time.

The Soviets do not like to "unearth the past," although they may have a ready answer or explanation to any stand whether on their part or Egypt's part. In fact they stress the present and the future and talk about the establishment of "normal relations," an expression I heard everywhere -- in the Foreign Ministry, centers of learning, and talks with journalists.

This Soviet realism stems from two things:

The first is that they realize the extent to which Egyptian-U.S. relations have become intertwined and consolidated. This is in addition to the increasing American presence in the area in general.

Also the Middle East problem has become so acute and complicated that some Arab parties believe that the only and perhaps the greatest hope of finding a solution is U.S. influence on Israel. Therefore, any Arab rapprochement with the Soviet Union is carefully calculated by Arab officials, even by its allies in the area.

The second thing is that there is no consensus within the Soviet leadership on a single stand toward the Middle East in general. Indeed there is a trend within the leadership in favor of some kind of withdrawal from the area, washing its hands of its endless problems.

The supporters of this trend, which has not yet prevailed, say the Soviet Union must learn from its bitter experience with the late President Anwar as-Sadat.

In Moscow they are quite convinced that they have received from Egypt what we in the Arab world call the "Sinnimar reward" [repaying good with evil].

They say that the essence of disagreement between them and Egypt has always centered on the extent and possibility of support for Egypt's Arab rights. In other words, Soviet friendship, backing, and actual support for Arab rights has always been a matter of course but the point of disagreement has always been the extent of such support, which some of the Arabs have want to match U.S. support for Israel, something that the Soviet Union cannot do and is not obliged to do given relations of a type unlike those existing between Israel and the United States.

[Question] But was there no error on your part, at least sometimes, in assessing the extent of such aid?

[Answer] No doubt there were disagreements over assessments, but such disagreements among friends should not have created such enmity.

[Question] It was sometimes said that you interfered in Egypt's internal affairs.

[Answer] We used to reply in our press and radio to what you said about us.

[Question] Some of your papers last year attacked the evacuation of Sinai and the open-door policy.

[Answer] Yes, TASS did criticize the evacuation and you answered it in ROSE AL-YUSUF, to which PRAVDA in turn replied. As for the open-door policy, some of the Soviet papers wrote about it two or three times criticizing the open-door consumer policy, just as Cairo papers criticized it. There is no campaign against Egyptian policy in its new era; neither is there an unfriendly attitude, bearing in mind that the Cairo press and media in general still attack the Soviet Union and its policy and speak about it in a hostile manner. [answer ends]

I said that they basically deal with the question of Afghanistan, which is a sensitive issue relating to religious feelings.

This is one of the justifications of the proponents of isolation and withdrawal. The other is that the Soviet Union is also suffering from severe economic problems and difficulties (this topic will be dealt with in a future article). The only way out of these difficulties lies in confirming the policy of detente with the United States, which primarily means reducing the expenses of the mad arms race.

Under the SALT-I agreement the Soviet Union saved R40 billion and under two or three similar agreements it can save R100 billion and so on.

It is therefore better [the official continued] to concentrate on understanding with the United States and the West in general and so ease our internal problems. Reaching understanding with the West also means making concessions and not getting involved in the complications of the endless Middle East problem where we do not even find gratitude. [answer ends]

I must point out here that the Soviets feel disappointment with even their closest friends in the Middle East.

We accidentally met with two Syrians who, shortly after we were introduced, turned out to be pilots who had come to the Soviet Union for training and study. We took this opportunity to discuss with them Syria's responsibility for allowing the destruction of the Syrian missile screen in Al-Biqa' and the subsquent loss of Syrian planes in battles with Israeli planes.

The two Syrian pilots defended Syria, saying that the Soviet aircraft and missiles were of an old type compared with the U.S. aircraft. One of the pilots said: You know what the Soviets give us.

I had with me my Soviet escort from the Foreign Ministry, but the Syrian pilots disregarded his presence at the meeting, which included a number of Egyptians.

After the pilots left, my Soviet escort said to me with profound bitterness: You see, the Soviet Union is always the one to blame. You see who is to blame after all that we have done? The Soviet Union.

In fact the size and strength of the trend toward withdrawal from the Middle East cannot be defined but, in any case, all those I spoke to denied that there was any influence behind such a trend, saying that they cling to a Soviet presence in the Middle East and an effective role in solving its problems and support its people in their struggle to get rid of subservience.

Soviet Policy

A Foreign Ministry official said to me:

I have often noticed that our Arab friends lack understanding of the principles of Soviet policy. We felt this at our meeting with the seven-man committee that came to Moscow at the Arab League's decision.

Some of the Arabs say that the Soviet policy aim is to reach warm waters.

After brief laughter, the Soviet official said:

One wonders: Are the Soviets prohibited from reaching the warm seas while the Americans are allowed, for example? Why this racial discrimination?

Some people say that we have an interest in rapprochement with the Arabs. This is 100 percent correct. Every state has its own interest, but the problem is whether or not my interest is always identical with the interest of the others. If there is an identity, then we will go together. It is definitely in the Soviet Union's interest to see all the world's peoples enjoying independence and it is definitely in its interest to see that every state that becomes independent becomes stronger.

What is our interest? Our interest is that more new countries become independent and that the stronger they are economically, politically, and militarily, the weaker our opponents become in the colonialist West. We do not conceal this interest but rather intensify it every day and our leaders make speeches about it at least once a week.

Also the strength of such countries and their detachment from colonialism makes even more remote the daner of a destructive world war, war from which not one single citizen in the Soviet Union would benefit while people in America would, because they own the arms and ammunitions factories and dream of restoring colonialist domination of the world.

This is the Soviet Union's clear, frank, and recorded policy which conforms with the principles of Soviet policy laid by the conference of the Social Democratic Party in 1903.

The Soviet Union continues to pursue this line. It is natural that errors are committed during implementation. When Saudi Foreign Minister Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal was here, we explained this policy to him several times. His statement afterward regarding the dangers threatening the Arab world as being, according to him, first political Islam (meaning Khomeyni) and then communism was viewed by us Soviets as a step forward.

Security in the Gulf

When we pointed out to the Soviet comrades that some of the Arabs do not accept or, at least, are not enthusiastic about Soviet participation in an international conference for a settlement, at least at present, because of their fear of the Soviet Union itself and of the danger they imagine, particularly in the Gulf region, they said: The story of a Soviet threat to the Gulf is a recent fabrication. Events have proved that there is no such threat. We Soviets should presumably reproach the Arabs for reiterating this accusation or, at least, for falling for it for many years. We are not in need of Arab oil or the oil of any other country. In a few days you can go to Baku where you will see that many parts of our country lie over lakes of oil.

What Is To Be Done Now?

In Moscow they have a very simple answer to this: Let us begin by exchanging ambassadors -- our ambassador returns and your ambassador comes to us.

The two will then discuss in the capitals of both countries means to normalize relations between the two countries. Trade relations between us still exist and this year will increase by 20 percent. We have bought a large quantity of cotton and are prepared to buy more. We only want the agreement to be for long enough, for 5 years, because our economy is planned and so that we have no difficulties because of discontinuing supplies or something similar.

Laughing, a Soviet official said to me: Do you know that we smell wonderful perfume from Cairo?

How? I asked.

We import from you 20 million pounds worth of perfume every year. Is this not enough reason for us and for you that the air should always smell good?

AL-AHALI 5 JAN ATTACK ON 'SAUDI IMPERIALISM'

PM141603 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 5 Jan 83 p 2

[Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad article: "Saudi Imperialism"]

[Text] One of the most important events that the last days of 1982 witnessed was the OPEC meeting in Vienna, which it was strongly hoped would repair the cracks within the organization.

The meeting failed to agree on a production quota for each country after the member states agreed on reducing OPEC's total output to 18.5 million barrels per day, that is, 60 percent of what the organization used to produce in the 1970's, because of the present recession in the world economy.

Various parties have accused "Saudi imperialism" of being the cause of this failure because Saudi Arabia, holding the biggest quota, should bear the biggest share of the reduction in production. But [Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs] Yamani announced that the level of Saudi production is decided by the Saudi monarch, not OPEC.

Saudi Arabia can dictate terms to the organization by a unilateral decision not to reduce production but to reduce the price of its oil from $34 to $30, for example.

"Saudi imperialism" is a unique phenomenon deriving its regional position from its international position, not vice versa, as is customary. If it loses control over oil prices internationally, its dominant regional position will be bound to suffer and to shrink seriously, which might spell the end of the "Saudi era."

"Saudi imperialism" is a phenomenon that is not being discussed in the Arab media or critically analyzed or seriously studied by Arab writers. This is because it has its own means of preventing any serious effort to this end, to the extent that it can be said that the touchstone of the patriotism, independence, and honesty of an Arab writer has become his record of freely criticizing Saudi Arabia.

One of the unique characteristics of "Saudi imperialism" is its attainment of the stage of "financial capitalism" without going through the stage of "commercial" or "industrial" capitalism, as in the case with Western capitalism.

One of its distinguishing characteristics is the fact that the oil surpluses that constitute its "financial capitalism" have become the basis of a new Arab viewpoint on the West, a viewpoint that sees the West as an "oil client" and not an "imperialist enemy." In other words, these surpluses have become the basis for relations with Western imperialism governed by participation and complementarity, not by contradiction.

It is the complementary relations with imperialism that have meant that "Arab wealth" has lost its character as a substitute for "Arab revolution" as the source of Arab strength and, on the contrary, has been given the character of a counterrevolution.

The security of "Saudi imperialism" is achieved by the efficiency it shows in its use of the "money weapon," not any other weapon, to the extent that the question being asked is: Does the "Saudi oil weapon" really constitute, as is often said, an "Arab weapon"?

Backing the Arab confrontation states has cost Saudi Arabia billions of dollars. Its support for Iraq in its war with Iran has cost it tens of billions of dollars, but Iran is asking it now for hundreds of billions of dollars in order to stop its invasion of Iraq. Can it be estimated how much Israel will ask for accepting Fahd's plan or even Reagan's plan as a basis for peace negotiations?

This is particularly true in view of the fact that what Israel is planning to obtain is not only recognition of its expansionist and annexation ambitions or merely acceptance of its role as a "gendarme" capable of browbeating any mutiny against the U.S. imperialist system in the area, but also acceptance of its role as a "customs officer" in control of oil transactions between the West and the Arabs, headed by Saudi Arabia.

But whatever Israel's ambitions may be, what Saudi Arabia fears most is that its new role will be contested by Arab parties which might lack the "oil weapon" but, on the other hand, have other assets that Saudi Arabia cannot match -- science, culture, civilization, openness toward the modern age, an ability to keep abreast of its achievements, and an ability to create the means of progress, not merely possession of them. At the head of these parties is Egypt.

For this reason Saudi Arabia is anxious to keep Egypt away from the arena of Arab debate. Its decision, for example, to allocate $30 million to build a permament headquarters for the Arab League in Tunis stems from this anxiety. It made this decision during Mubarak's era but did not find it justifiable during As-Sadat's. The transfer of the Arab League to Tunis was then deemed temporary at a time when there was no question of Egypt's returning to the Arabs and becoming a contestant in the arena.

But the failure of the Vienna OPEC meeting created quite a new situation. Oil prices are likely to collapse, all the oil assets might be shaken, and the whole economic and currency system is in jeopardy.

With the vanishing of the "oil weapon," will "Saudi imperialism" have any future? Can it be imagined how much the Arab homeland will pay for its death?

MUBARAK RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM KING HUSAYN

NC190722 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0702 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA) -- Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has received a lengthy oral message from King Husayn of Jordan on the results of the Jordanian monarch's visit to Washington and on his ralks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, the U.S. position on Palestinian participation in the talks, U.S. opposition to the policy of continued building of settlements, as well as other details [words indistinct].

Publishing this report today, AL-AHRAM points out that Mubarak received the message on Sunday from Nabil Badr, head of the mission in charge of Egyptian interests in Amman. The message, the newspaper says, comes before President Mubarak's visit (?to Washington) and his meeting with President Reagan on 27 January.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM RAPS ARAB CRITICISM OF EGYPT

PM181633 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 15 Jan 83 p 8

[Excerpts] At last the delegates taking part in the sixth round of talks held in Qiryat Shemona the day before yesterday on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon reached an agreement on the agenda. The final statement said that Lebanon and Israel have agreed to deal simultaneously with the topics on the agenda in the light of their relations with one another.

Agreement is one thing and implementation is another, for our experience with the Israeli negotiator leaves much to be desired. But this does not prevent the continuation of negotiations with him in order to corner him, although he may have in his hands the means to wield pressure, the most important part of which is the continuing strengthening of the Israeli military presence in Lebanon and insistence upon normalizing relations with Lebanon before withdrawing from its territory.

On the other hand, Lebanon has only two strong and convincing cards in its hands. The first is the Lebanese people's right to repossess their occupied land and expel the invaders, the right that enjoys the support of international law and world opinion that rejects the usurpation of land by force. The second card is the support by the entire Arab nation for Lebanon's rights and its total backing for any agreement accepted by Lebanon that ends the Israeli occupation.

The latter card is of considerable power, which Egypt did not have when it negotiated with Israel in order to reach a peaceful settlement for the Middle East problem in general and for ending the Israeli occupation of Sinai in particular. From the outset, when the late leader Anwar as-Sadat announced his readiness for direct negotiations with the Israelis, Egypt met with Arab rejection from the ocean to the Gulf. This was the first time an Arab country called for negotiations with the Israeli enemy and the first time in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict that an Arab government dared to agree to end the state of war with Israel and sign a peace treaty with it.

Since that moment Egypt has been in an unenviable position vis-a-vis the sisterly Arab states. Those states hastened to break relations with Cairo as part of a series of "punitive" measures upon which the conferees in Baghdad agreed.

But the situation with Lebanon was different. When Israel occupied Lebanon and all Arab and international attempts to force it to withdraw failed, and when it became clear, particularly to the Arabs, that it is impossible to expel the occupier with the same force that he used in order to impose his presence, the Lebanese Government decided to deal with the crisis by itself after despairing of its being solved by others and after the Lebanese people could take no more than they had already suffered.

This was what the Lebanese people did: They agreed to enter into direct negotiations with the Israeli occupier. They also agreed that the Lebanese negotiator would go to an Israel town to negotiate, the venue alternating with a Lebanese town. They accepted an agenda for the talks that includes the question of ending the state of war between the two countries, security arrangements, a framework for mutual agreement on bilateral relations, an ending of hostile propaganda, and freedom of passage and trade across the borders.

But what happened to Egypt did not happen to Lebanon. The sisterly Arab states did not convene a summit in order to penalize Lebanon for the stab in the back it dealt to the Arab nation. The rejectionist Arab regimes did not hasten to break diplomatic, economic, cultural, tourist, and fraternal relations with Lebanon. The media and propaganda trumpets of Arab regimes were not ordered to launch violent campaigns against the Lebanese Government and people. Lebanese President al-Jumayyil was not the target of accusations as was the late President Anwar as-Sadat.

On the contrary, the Arab regimes were completely silent. They supported and accepted what President al-Jumayyil is doing in order to convince Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, even if he takes the same path that Egypt took before, thus achieving what Lebanon is now trying to achieve. Did the Egyptian Government do anything more against the Arab nation to deserve the rejection and alienation of the Arabs than the Lebanese Government is doing now but for which it has the support of the Arabs and their friendship? In what way do the results that Anwar as-Sadat achieved differ from what Amin al-Jumayyil is trying to achieve? Yet Anwar as-Sadat became the target of the most ugly accusations while Amin al-Jumayyil is applauded and acclaimed by the Arabs.

These are indeed two contradictory stands that defy comprehension, and this is Egypt's fate and that of its late leader.

'ALI RECEIVES CSSR ENVOY, WARSAW PACT STATEMENT

NC162131 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, during a meeting with CSSR Ambassador in Cairo Ladislav Novak, received the text of the statement issued by the Warsaw Pact summit conference held in Prague early this month. It has been learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry will study this statement, particularly the points relevant to the Middle East situation. During the meeting 'Ali and Novak discussed issues pertinent to bilateral relations and a visit by a CSSR economic delegation to Cairo in February.

ETHICS COURT RESUMES 'ISMAT AS-SADAT TRIAL

NC181816 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1718 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA) -- The court of ethics today resumed its sessions to try 'Ismat as-Sadat and some members of his family. The court heard the testimony of a number of the defense witnesses in the case including Major General 'Abd al-Hamid as-Saghir, the director of security in Atruh Governorate.

At the end of the 3-hour session, the court decided to postpone consideration of the case until tomorrow, Wednesday, to hear the testimony of other defense witnesses.

At the beginning of the session, the court approved the request by the defense panel to resume the defense of 'Ismat as-Sadat and his family. The defense lawyers had withdrawn during the previous court session.

GHALI ATTENDS NONALIGNED MEETING IN MANAGUA

For Cairo MENA and Managua radio coverage of the visit by Foreign Minister Butrus Ghali to the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, including his speech on 14 January, see the Nicaragua section of the 12 January Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

OFFICIAL DENIES ACCORD WITH 'ARAFAT ON DELEGATION

JN181424 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] A ranking Jordanian official in Amman has announced that Jordanian King Husayn and the Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat have not yet agreed on the names of the Palestinian personalities which may take part in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the anticipated peace negotiations.

The Jordanian official, who declined to disclose his name, added that the Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations have not yet yielded any tangible agreement, and that the two sides have not yet agreed on the form of the future union [al-ittihad al-mustaqbali] between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples although Jordan and the PLO had agreed in principle in November 1982 on the framework of the United Jordanian-Palestinian state.

AD-DUSTUR DEFENDS PLO, ARAB POLITICAL ACTION

JN180857 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Jan 83

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Palestinian National Unity," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: Those who are seeking to split the Palestinian ranks are fully aware that they sriking at the PLO and its legitimate representation of all the Palestinian people. This has always been Israel's objective. Even the invasion of Lebanon, as admitted by the Israeli political and military leaders, was aimed only at destroying the PLO's military infrastructure as a step toward destroying its political infrastructure.

The invasion has failed to achieve its political aims and displayed Israel as an agressive state, whereas the PLO has won wide international support. Therefore, any action aimed against the Palestinian national unity and the PLO is an aggressive act and is part of the Israeli designs to realize what its barbaric military invasion has failed to achieve.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: Furthermore, the Arab unanimity on political action as realized at the Fes summit, does not allow any side to depart from it. This unanimity also offers a criterion on how serious others are in their concern for the Arabism of the occupied territories and the Israeli withdrawal through political action -- which is now our only option. The alternative will be Arab silence, which will enable Israeli to achieve its settlement aims and give the Arab and non-Arab sides another chance to exploit the suffering of our kinfolk in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for personal gain, which shcuild not be given preference to the issue of land under any pretext or slogan. Experience has proven that such pretexts and slogans are empty and lack the minimum degree of sincerity, seriousness, and real confrontation.

'ASSUMPTIONS' OF TRIPOLI STATEMENT CRITICIZED

JN181808 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Five Palestinian resistance factions have held a meeting in the Libyan capital city under the chairmanship of Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The participants issued a statement whose full text was broadcast by Damascus Radio. The statement contained the following phrase which we quote verbatim: We reject all forms of granting the Jordanian regime authority to act for the Palestinian people or to participate together with elements from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the joint delegation.

We would like to set aside the significance of this meeting's convening in the Libyan capital city, as well as the significance of Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's chairmanship of the meeting. We would also like to set aside the significance of the fact that only the Libyan and Syrian news media broadcast the text of the statement at a time when the PLO Executive Committee, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, was holding a meeting in Damascus that was completely ignored by both these news media. We set all this aside and try to consider the statement: We reject all forms of granting the Jordanian regime authority to act for the Palestinian people.

We think that those who met in Libya are either ignorant of the Jordanian stand or are deliberately and purposefully ignoring it. For Jordan has frequently stressed, either through His Majesty King Husayn or through other Jordanian officials, its categorical rejection of any authorization given him by any side to represent the Palestinian people. Therefore, the stand of the Palestinian factions which signed the Tripoli statement is based on a mistaken assumption and, consequently, leads to erroneous conclusions.

Those who are aware of the truth and those who refuse to become aware of it are asked to stop distorting facts. We say this because the Palestinian people, the Arab nation and all sides concerned with the search for a just settlement to the Palestinian cause know very well that Jordan has never proposed itself as a substitute for the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. They also know that Jordan is still facing different pressures to force it to undertake a substitute role. Jordan has held to its principled stand that the Palestinian cause is primarily the cause of the Palestinian people. Although relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples are remarkable, we say that this quality does not give anyone the right to substitute for the Palestinians or to act for them in any move or effort.

The Tripoli statement, which was signed by five Palestinian factions and stressed the refusal to grant Jordan authority of any kind to act for the Palestinian people, directly and decisively agrees with our stand here in Jordan, that the Palestinian people do represent themselves and control their own decisionmaking process.

As for the second point in this statement which rejected the participation of elements from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in any joint delegation, we say that it is a concept which, to say the least, agrees completely with the Israeli plan to threaten the identity and population of the occupied land. If some of the Arabs and Palestinians who signed the Tripoli statement are really unaware of the plot being hatched against the occupied land, then this is a disaster. If they are aware of the threats, and in spite of them insist on their stand toward the kinfolk in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and their right to move in order to defend the land and its identity, then this insistance is a real catastrophe.

To those who do not know, and those who insist on ignoring the prevailing reality, we say that the Israeli plan is too dangerous to be ignored. This plan is threatening the identity of the land and the people. It is attempting to obliterate the crux of the Palestinian cause. Naturally, there is a big difference between mere spectators and those who suffer, but the former have no right whatever to continue their immoral exploitation of the suffering of the kinfolk in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These spectators have no right to stand by and simply condemn any move or attempt by the kinfolk to save themselves and rescue the land.

The bitter Palestinian experience, particularly in Beirut, has shown that there are some people who are only capable of counting the enemies' blows on the Palestinians' backs inside and outside the occupied homeland.

SOVIET FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION ARRIVES 17 JAN

JN181227 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0935 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Amman, 18 Jan (PETRA) -- A delegation of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries led by (Aleksey Savonon), Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Society chairman in Moscow, arrived in Amman yesterday on a weeklong visit to Jordan at the invitation of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society.

The delegation will hold talks with Jordanian officials and the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society in Amman and will sign a cultural agreement for the years 1983 and 1984 between the Soviet-Jordanian and the Jordanian-Soviet friendship societies.

The Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society has prepared a program for the guest delegation to visit historical sites in Jordan.

USSR AVIATION UNION DELEGATION ARRIVES 17 JAN

JN181135 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Amman, 18 Jan (PETRA) -- A Soviet Aviation Workers Union delegation, led by the union's secretary, Ivan Kabakov, arrived in Amman yesterday on a weeklong visit to Jordan at the invitation of the Jordanian Trade Union of Air Transport and Tourism.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, head of the Jordanian union, said that the Soviet delegation's visit is part of cooperation between the two unions and aims at bolstering bilateral friendship.

BRIEFS

DIPLOMATS TRANSFERRED -- Amman -- AR-RA'Y has learned that the Cabinet has decided to transfer Jordan's Permament UN Representative Dr Hazim Nusaybah and Jordan's Ambassador to Switzerland 'Abdallah Salah to the Foreign Ministry's headquarters. [Text] [Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Jan 83 p 1 JN]

HABIB REPORTEDLY BRINGS NEW IDEAS ON WITHDRAWAL

NC181830 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1645 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] At a time when the United States is seeking through its envoy in the area, Ambassador Philip Habib, to undo the Syrian-Soviet knot represented in the installation of SAM-5's, Lebanese and Israeli sources said this afternoon that Philip Habib has submitted new ideas aimed at speeding up the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon.

In Israel, the Israeli radio quoted political sources as saying that during his meeting with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today, Philip Habib reviewed new ideas aimed at speeding up the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon. These sources explained that these new American ideas are also connected with guaranteeing the laying down of security arrangements in south Lebanon preparatory to the evacuation of the Israeli forces.

It has been further stated that Habib will meet again with Shamir tomorrow to discuss the security arrangements on which there is still no complete agreement between Washington and Israel.

In Beirut, diplomatic sources have disclosed a new American proposal to untie some of the knots obstructing the speeding up of the negotiations and consequently the withdrawals. The new proposals concentrate on the basic points in the agenda.

These sources point out that during the recent Khaldah meeting, the Lebanese side noticed that there is an understanding between the American and Israeli sides on a number of the issues under discussion and that there is a progress in their understanding of the position of Lebanon and its view on all proposals.

The sources emphasized the seriousness of the U.S. interest in the Lebanese crisis. They said that Habib will return to Beirut this weekend.

AL-JUMAYYIL CHAIRS LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING

NC181242 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Pending the results of the efforts by the United States, which is fully and clearly aware of what Lebanon can and cannot accept, what is most important now is consolidating a united Lebanese stance and avoiding any contradictions that would make Lebanon fall once again into a trap.

Among those received today by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil was the secretary general of the Front for the Protection of the South, Muhammad Safiy ad-Din.

After the meeting, Safiy ad-Din said: I have the profound impression that the country is in trusted hands and there is great hope that a happy ending to the salvation efforts led by the president will soon be reached.

President al-Jumayyil then chaired the meeting of the Higher Liaison Committee in the presence of the U.S., French, and Italian ambassadors.

DELEGATIONS TO ARAB STATES BRIEF AL-JUMAYYIL

NC181310 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The Lebanese delegations to the Arab states today contacted President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil to brief him on the mission with which they were entrusted.

The government has sent parliamentary delegations, representing the various Lebanese factions, to the Arab capitals to portray the united internal stand and to tell the Arab capitals what Lebanon aspires from them, while it is alone struggling for the liberation of its territory.

In a statement yesterday, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: Lebanon, this homeland which is small in area and in population but big in adhering to national principles and sublime examples, has been destined to sacrifice a great deal for its own sake and for the sake of others. As it was a battlefield not for Lebanese demands but for questions beyond it, Lebanon is also pursuing the same principles and the same dimensions in the present negotiations.

PAPERS DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS, ARAB ROLE

NC190933 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Press Review]

[Excerpt] AL-ANWAR regards the Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona negotiations as actually being quadripartite, although in form they are tripartite. In addition to Lebanon, Israel, and the United States, there are also the Arab states or at least some of them. There are also the Soviets and the Middle East crisis and there are negotiations outside the hall among various parties. Negotiations and other talks are taking place while Lebanon finds itself revolving between two positions: Israel is requesting normalization and withdrawal of others, and others are requesting Israel's withdrawal without normalization. Lebanon turns toward the United States and finds it preoccupied with resolving the Middle East question and exerting intensive efforts to bring King Husayn to the negotiations table. Lebanon turns toward the Arab states and finds them incapable of intimidating Israel and instead of pressuring the United States, they are bringing pressure on Lebanon. However, the persevering Lebanon can at the end reach a difficult option, namely that of withdrawing from everyone the cards with which they are playing.

AN-NAHAR regards the majority of the active Arab states, led by Saudi Arabia, as saying that most of the Arab states have reviewed their stances in light of new developments and have turned their position toward peace because of two events which had an earth-shaking impact on the previous Arab thought: 1.) Egypt's leaving the Arab-Israeli conflict after it was the backbone of the Arab confrontation: and 2.) The Israeli operation in Lebanon and the PLO's departure from Beirut.

Egypt has gained its territory through negotiations and Lebanon is trying to gain its territory by negotiations because it is unable to regain it by force. In all cases, what is happening in Lebanon will be the second main test to ward off the Russians from the Arabs. The tour of U.S. envoy Philip Habib is within this framework. He is seeking an Israeli stance close to the U.S. view to achieve this strategic goal.

SALIN ON 'INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS' WITH ISRAEL

NC190834 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim has told the BBC correspondent in Beirut that time is needed for intensive discussions with Israel before the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon starts. He said: I believe there is a good opportunity to clarify all matters within a period of 1 or 2 months at the most and maybe we can discuss the withdrawal before that.

He noted that the United States has been exerting pressure to speed up the negotiations. He reiterated the Lebanese stance that Beirut will not yield to the Israeli request to sign a peace treaty or to normalize the relations adding: We cannot be forced to go beyond a line which we consider our redline. We are the occupied country and the victim.

Minister Salim affirmed that the 1949 armistice agreement must govern any relations with Israel in the future and that Lebanon does not want to be dealt with separately, to leave the Arab ranks, and to sign a peace treaty with Israel leading to the normalization of relations with it. He urged those who love Lebanon to give it a chance to return to normal conditions and to help Lebanon to recover its health.

In respect of the presence of the Syrian and the Palestinian forces in Lebanon, he said Lebanon has guarantees from President Hafiz al-Asad and from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat that the Syrian and Palestinian forces will withdraw from Lebanon as soon as they are certain of the Israeli withdrawal and as soon as we arrive at a tangible understanding with Israel and a sort of a timetable for the Israeli forces' withdrawal.

USSR DELEGATION REPORTEDLY TO VISIT 19 JAN

LD182050 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] It was officially announced in Beirut at noon today that a Soviet delegation, led by (Akimov), member of the Supreme Soviet, will arrive in Beirut on 19 January on a visit to Lebanon. The official sources did not mention the purpose of the visit of the Soviet delegation to Lebanon but it is expected that the delegation will meet with senior Lebanese officials to familiarize itself with the current situation in Lebanon in the light of the program of the current Lebanese-Zionist talks.

TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES, DELIVERS LETTER

NC181636 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Beji Caid es-Sebsi, who arrived at Beirut airport at 1550 today on a 2-day visit to Lebanon, said that he has a letter for President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba. Es-Sebsi promptly proceeded to B'abda Palace and conveyed the letter to the president who held a meeting with him during which developments on the Lebanese and Arab arenas were reviewed. The head of Tunisian diplomacy affirmed his country's support for the Lebanese legitimacy represented by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and the constitutional establishments. The Tunisian minister hoped that Lebanon and the Lebanese people will attain the progress and prosperity they aspire to.

[Begin Caid es-Sebsi recording] I want to say that I am visiting fraternal Lebanon, which is dear to the heart of every Tunisian, and that I have a letter from His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba to His Excellency President al-Jumayyil. My visit at this delicate juncture through which the Lebanese people are passing, the big challenges it is facing, and the various grave difficulties that are not easy to face, comes as an affirmation from Tunisia that Lebanon is a fundamental part of the Arab world which cannot be replaced. It is also an affirmation from Tunisia that we support the Lebanese constitutional structures. We also support Lebanon's efforts to unify its soil and to spread its sovereignty over all its territory.

Greeting from the grand struggler, Habib Bourguiba, and from green Tunisia to His Excellency Amin al-Jumayyil and to the fraternal Lebanese people. He hopes and prays that God will assist the brothers in Lebanon to confront all the challenges, and attain for the dear and fraternal Lebanese people the progress, advancement, and prosperity they aspire to. [end recording]

Meets With Al-Jumayyil

NC181722 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Beji Caid es-Sebsi, who arrived in Beirut today, met with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil at 1630 today. The Tunisian ambassador in Lebanon, Sa'd bin Mustapha, and director of Es-Sebsi's office (Mohamed Imamu), attended the meeting.

The Tunisian minister said after the meeting that he handed President al-Jumayyil a letter from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba related to the situation in Lebanon, the Middle East, and the world. He added: During our discussion with President al-Jumayyil, we touched upon our excellent bilateral relations and the fraternal, historical, and common civilization ties that bind Lebanon and Tunisia. He added: It is the duty of all the Arabs to be in solidarity with Lebanon and with the Lebanese president for his honorable stands aimed at achieving the unity of Lebanese soil and Lebanese sovereignty, and ridding Lebanon of the Israeli presence.

In response to a question, the Tunisian minister of foreign affairs said: The Lebanese issue is a just issue worthy of support. We are, therefore, here to affirm Tunisia's solidarity with Lebanon and Tunisia's relationship with Lebanese legitimacy represented in the head of the Lebanese state and the constitutional establishments.

He was asked whether there was a Tunisian endeavor with the PLO to help in securing the withdrawal of all the foreign forces from Lebanon. He replied: I believe that the PLO has clearly announced that the withdrawal of its forces is a card in President al-Jumayyil's hand. As for Tunisia, it is always seeking to bring points of view closer and supports all the just issues, including the Lebanese and Palestinian issues.

Meets With Salim

NC182104 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] At 1730, Foreign and Expatriates Minister Dr Elie Salim received at his house Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi who was accompanied by the director of Es-Sebsi's office, (Mohamed Imamu); Tunisian Ambassador to Lebanon Sa'd bin Mustapha also attended the meeting.

After the meeting, Minister Salim said: First, I want to welcome our distinguished guest Es-Sebsi, who from the first minute has become a close friend to me. I hope that I have become a close friend of his. This is a happy occasion for me to get acquainted with him. I have heard a great deal about him and I know a great deal about Tunisia and about the daring Arab stands which President Habib Bourguiba has always taken. We are proud of his Arab stands and wise leadership and hope that Lebanon, which is now suffering from one of the biggest crises faced by an Arab country, will enjoy his wisdom and that of the Tunisian people, and that with his wise leadership, we will reach a safe shore in the difficult negotiations we are currently engaged in.

Minister Salim added: This phase is one of coordination between Lebanon and all the Arab states, particularly the Arab states which are now shouldering, because of numerous conditions, huge responsibilities regarding the great Arab issues. I look forward with a great deal of longing for additional talks with our distinguished guest. I am confident that these talks will lead to the improvement of relations between Tunisia and Lebanon and between Lebanon and all the Arab League members. I am also confident that these talks will be very useful to us in Lebanon at this phase in particular.

AL-MURABITUN COMMAND COUNCIL ISSUES STATEMENT

NC152047 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] The Political Committee of the Command Council of the Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun held an extraordinary meeting under Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat during which the agenda was discussed. The committee also discussed the internal organizational, political, and security conditions in the Lebanese and Arab arenas, and the negotiations taking place in Khaldah and Al-Khalisah [Qiryat Shemona]. At the end of the meeting, the committee issued the following statement:

1. The committee reviewed the new developments particularly the results of the negotiations taking place in Khaldah and Al-Khalisah. It considered within this framework that the results which the negotiations will have are clear and will have a negative effect on the future of the Lebanese national issue in particular and the Arab issue in general. In this respect, the committee affirms that a detailed statement will be issued by the movement in this regard containing its stand on these negotiations and their agenda.

2. The committee reviewed the reasons for the continued operations of repression and detentions to which our movement is being exposed at the various organizational levels and operations which are aimed at creating alarm on the national and Islamic arena.

3. This statement of affairs has begun to impose its results on the arena in a manner prompting the establishment of a developed and effective formula of a type capable of movement that goes beyond the frameworks that were in force before the 4 June war and the invasion of the homeland that followed.

4. After the committee submitted two detailed reports on its work during the absence of the movement's leader on the events mentioned in the previous paragraph, and on the basis of the provision of Article 31 of the movement's provisional statute, the Command Council chairman issued the following decision:

A. Dissolving the leadership group in the Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun -- the group composed of the Command Council and the Central Committee secretary, and freezing any activity in their framework or in their name.

B. Establishing a Central Revolutionary Political Committee for followup affairs that will be announced within a week.

C. Establishing a Central Emergency Council including the various sectors, establishments, departments, and forces that are continuing in their movement's struggle and confronting the current phase. The formation of this council will be announced within a month.

D. Forming a Higher Committee to organize the documents, literature, and program of the coming general conference of the Central Committee during the first session of the Central Revolutionary Political Committee.

E. The duties and responsibilities of the Central Revolutionary Political Committee and the Emergency Council will continue in a provisional manner until the date of the convening of the general conference of the Central Committee.

F. The current Political Committee will continue to carry out its duties until the new committee is formed.

Within this framework, the movement leader affirmed his decision that the responsibility for political and military requirements, decisions, and the previous stands, as well as their present and future responsibilities before the departments concerned and the state, will be completely borne by him, personally, with every confidence and struggle duty. Furthermore, he will also bear the results of the evaluation of the phase of resisting the Zionist incursion and its political and other effects as well as the results of the struggle stands that were adopted at the time.

The committee decided that this responsibility by the brother leader is based on the principle of his being the maker of the historic and fateful decisions, and the struggle responsibilities within the framework of his responsibilities not to permit the continuation of the plan aimed at the Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun, and at the cause which the movement aims at advocating whether at the national level or at the pan-Arab level.

Lastly, the committee urges the press and the information media to abide by the contents and spirit of this principled statement to which the movement is committed.

Qulaylat Comments Further

NC181553 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1330 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text][Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun leader] Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat said in a press statement that the movement has not dropped the option of armed confrontation in addition to political confrontation and that we are the ones who determine our course on the ground. Brother Qulaylat affirmed the hope that the forces of national reason will prevail over every blackmail or attempt to harm the homeland's independence and bind it to the bandwagon of external allegiances. Brother Qulaylat was answering questions posed to him on the [Lebanese-Israeli-American] negotiations and statements made by the official responsible for military affairs of the Lebanese Front militia.

HADDAD ASKS SOLDIERS TO REGISTER DAILY

NC181040 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Free Lebanon Commander Major Haddad has issued the following: All members of the Free Lebanon army in the eastern sector, who are not on active service, should report to Khayrallah Salamah barracks at p800 daily except Sundays and holidays. This is for the purpose of registering their names with the battalion's warrant officer 'Abdu Muqlib, and for receiving new instructions. They will not leave the barracks without the approval of the said officer. A check will be made to determine those present and disciplinary action will be taken against absentees. This measure is effective as of this morning, Tuesday, 18 January and will remain in force until further notice.

KUNA: SYRIA MAY WITHDRAW FROM 7-MEMBER COMMITTEE

LD191050 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1002 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi: 19 Jan (KUNA) -- Press reports in Ash-Shariqah, Ash-Shariqah, have cited an unnamed senior Arab diplomat as saying that Syria has informed a number of Arab countries of the retractation of its agreement to the resolutions of the Fes summit connected with the Arab peace plan. AL-KHALIJ today quoted the diplomat as saying that Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam told the leaders of the Arab countries that he visited during the past few days of his country's new posture and of Syria's rejection of U.S. President Reagan's plan.

The Arab diplomat told the paper that Syria has decided not to take part in the work of the seven-member committee if it is held at the summit level. Nor will it take part in the tours and the meetings of the foreign ministers committee if the tours and meetings are chaired by either the ruler of Morocco, King Hassan II, or the ruler of Jordan, King Husayn.

The Arab diplomat interpreted this decision to mean Syria's effective withdrawal from the seven-member committee. He also said that Syria rejects the holding of an Arab summit conference at the current stage. Arab countries have proposed holding a summit conference in February or at the Nonaligned summit to be held in New Delhi in March.

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM RETURNS FROM GULF TOUR

JN181257 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1220 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, 18 Jan (SANA) -- 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, arrived here today at the end of a tour of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and the UAE, during which he delivered messages from President Hafiz al-Asad on the current Arab situation.

Briefs Al-Asad on Tour

JN182057 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2040 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, 18 Jan (SANA) -- President Hafiz al-Asad this evening received 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, who briefed him on the tour he had made to some fraternal Arab countries where he delivered messages from President al-Asad to the leaders of these countreis on the current situation and developments in the region and on the talks he had held with these countries' officials. Khaddam visited Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and the UAE.

SOVIET SOLIDARITY COMMITTEES TALKS HELD

JN180828 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Talks were held this evening between the Syrian and Soviet Committees for Solidarity with Asian and African Countries at the headquarters of the Syrian Solidarity Committee in Damascus. The session was chaired by Ahmad al-As'ad, deputy chairman of the Syrian Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African Countries, and Mirza Ibragimov, chairman of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity. The talks dealt with the longstanding cooperation and friendship between the two committees in the various fields and the ways to develop and entrench these relations in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

The two sides also discussed the two committees participation in the international and popular conferences aimed at exposing the policy and crimes of U.S. imperialism and Zionism against the Arab nation and its struggling masses. The talks also touched on the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

The two sides praised Syria's steadfastness under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership against all imperialist and Zionist plots to liquidate the Arab cause and subjugate our struggling country. They also reviewed the national and pan-Arab tasks undertaken by Syria in confronting the U.S.-backed Israeli aggression and in playing a prominent role in leading the Arab liberation movement against aggression in its capacity as a basic base of struggle in the Arab region. The two sides asserted that all world forces of liberation and progress should give further support to Syria's firm and principled stand on the just causes of the Arab homeland and the world.

The two sides stressed that Arab Syria will remain the citadel of Arab steadfastness and struggle, led by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its secretary general, Comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, who is leading the Arab march of struggle toward victory, liberation, and progress.

During the talks, Ibragimov praised the attitude of Syria and its struggling political leadership toward the Arab and international issues. He stressed that the USSR will remain a faithful friend of this struggling country which is a basic side to the world liberation movement. He expressed the Soviet people's appreciation of Syria's stands and reiterated his country's support for the wise Syrian policy.

Officials Receive USSR Delegation

JN181942 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, 18 Jan (SANA) -- Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and chairman of the Syrian Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African Countries; and Comrade Ahmad al-As'ad, deputy chairman of the solidarity committee, today received Comrade Mirza Ibragimov, chairman of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity, and his delegation.

Talks dealt with the longstanding cordial relations between the two friendly countries and the means to promote them in the common interests of the two countries, the current Arab situation, and the determination of the Syrian people to confront the U.S. imperialist and racist Zionist plans which are aimed at foiling the supporting role of AAPSO in the struggle of the Arab people against the aggressive plans.

AL-AHMAR CONFERS WITH USSR CHARGE D'AFFAIRES

JN171330 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received (Viktor Busavaldak), the USSR charge d'affaires in Damascus. Talks dealt with the clauses of cooperation program between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the CPSU and with the measures implemented in this regard.

U.S.-ISRAEL 'THREATS' ON SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS NOTED

JN190740 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Jan 83

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Commenting on the U.S. and Israeli pretexts aimed at launching new Zionist-U.S. aggression against Arab Syria, today's newspaper TISHRIN writes: Once again the United States and Israel harp on what they call Syria's possession of new sophisticated weapons, interpreting it as a strategic development facing the United States rather than a practical step to improve Syria's defensive capabilities. This U.S. and Israeli stand is accompanied by an obvious threat based on the pretext that Syria's possession of these weapons poses danger to the U.S. Air Force and 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean.

TISHRIN adds: Talk about this subject is associated with feverish U.S. and Israeli attempts to complete the implementation of the steps specified in their strategic cooperation agreement. The United States and Israel are seeking, through the current negotiations with Lebanon, the normalize the Israeli-Lebanese relations under the guise of the clause calling for defining a framework for relations between Lebanon and Israel and for security arrangements over large areas in southern Lebanon. This clause is exactly like the detailed points stated in the abovementioned agreement.

U.S. President Reagan's plan is in essence another axis complementing the axis of action on the Lebanese arena. This plan is aimed against the entire Arab arena. Hence, it was neither strange nor surprising to see the United States and Israel talk once again about Syria's possession of new sophisticated weapons. This talk aims at perfecting the justifications for launching a large-scale aggression against Syria and directly threatening it if it continues to resist the strategic U.S.-Israeli expansion in the Arab region.

Concluding, the paper says: Regarding the overt or covert negotiations currently taking place in Lebanon and the Arab region and their connection with the capitulatory plans which are being publicly peddled, it is perhaps worth mentioning that the strategic cooperation agreement aims -- as announced by U.S. and Israeli leaders -- at halting the so-called Soviet infiltration in the area. Can the U.S.-Israeli declaration that arming Syria is a strategic gain for the Soviets considered a prelude to aggression?

AL-BA'TH SCORES 'ARAFAT'S REMARKS TO CAIRO MAGAZINE

JN181445 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Following the statements of Syrian Culture Minister Najah al-'Attar, in which she implicitly criticized the Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, Damascus daily AL-BA'TH today castigated 'Arafat's statements to Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI.

The Damascus daily affirmed that the statements of the PLO Executive Committee chairman are concomitant with the arrangements which are underway in Washington regarding visits to the United States by King Husayn, Egyptian President Mubarak, and Israeli Prime Minister Begin.

Observers in Damascus noted that the Syrian criticism of Yasir 'Arafat has been leveled at him where he is presiding over the PLO Executive Committee's meetings in Damascus.

HABIB, DRAPER, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS MEET

TA181303 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1245 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The negotiating teams of Israel and the United States will probably meet again tomorrow at the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, his deputy Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, and the director general of the ministry, David Kimche, conferred today for approximately 3 hours with Ambassadors Habib and Draper from the United States. Today's talks have been blacked out.

Our correspondent Moshe Hakohen reports that as far as is known, the talks featured the main components of the arrangement [hesder] with Lebanon, including the security and normalization arrangements. The steering team for the direct talks with Lebanon will meet tomorrow to instruct the Israeli delegation in anticipation of the session that will be held in 2 days in Qiryat Shemona.

Expected Agreement With Lebanon

TA190818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Text] The expected agreement between Israel and Lebanon will say specifically that it replaces all previous agreements. Thus, Israel's request that there will be a different legal basis for its relations with Lebanon will be granted -- that is, these relations will not be based on the cease-fire agreement of 1949. This emerged yesterday from a meeting in Jerusalem between the Israeli negotiating team and U.S. representatives Philip Habib and Morris Draper. No timetable, or even a hint of one, for a withdrawal of IDF units as Lebanon claims it has submitted, was mentioned at the meeting.

Additional Report

TA181558 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1515 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Report by Moshe Hakohen -- live or recorded]

[Text] It can now be said that the center of gravity of the contacts to achieve an agreement with Lebanon has shifted from Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona to Jerusalem. In the capital, Philip Habib is pressing for a quick U.S.-Israeli understanding on the main points of the settlement woth Lebanon, pledging that the United States will convince the Lebanese president to accept such a settlement once it has been worked out.

This morning, Habib and Ambassador Morris Draper met for 3 hours with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, his deputy, Yehuda Ben-Me'ir; the ministry's director general, David Kimche; and defense establishment representatives. They discussed all the matters connected with the negotiations, though mainly normalization and the security arrangements. The parties set an additional meeting for tomorrow. Habib clarified that he wants to hold as intensive negotiations as possible. The contents of the talks themselves were kept secret, but it seems that although some progress was achieved the gap between Israel and the United States remains wide.

Meanwhile, Israel declared today that it would agree to extending UNIFIL's mandate by 2 or 3 months only. The Force's mandate expires tomorrow, and the UN Security Council is supposed to discuss its extension this evening. Israel's position is that within 2 or 3 months, an agreement will be achieved between Israel and Lebanon about alternative security arrangements for southern Lebanon, which will not include a role for UNIFIL. Instead, Israel is proposing joint Lebanese-Israeli patrols in the south.

Even if the Security Council ultimately decides to extend UNIFIL's mandate by 6 months, as is customary, Israel expects that following the achievement of the agreement with Lebanon, Lebanon will ask that UNIFIL be removed from the 45-km strip. Israel does not oppose the positioning of the force north of that line.

Further Details on Talks

TA181941 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] In the talks with Philip Habib today, the points of dispute between Israel and the United States that deal mainly with the security arrangements in Lebanon remained unresolved. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen reports that in the lenghty meeting held at the foreign minister's office in Jerusalem, Habib succeeded in achieving full coordination of positions between Israel and the United States. Some progress was made on normalization. The main dispute concerns the Israeli warning stations in Lebanese territory and Israel's demand that UNIFIL be removed from the 45-km strip. Habib again proposed that Americans man the warning stations, while his Israeli interlocutors insisted that Israelis man them. The question of the status of Sa'd Haddad's forces also remained unresolved. Tomorrow, another meeting will be held between Habib and Morris Draper, the foreign minister, the deputy foreign minister, the Foreign Ministry director general, and representatives of the IDF and the Defense Ministry. After tomorrow's meeting, Habib will decide on his next move. It seems that he will leave at the end of the week for Beirut, and perhaps also Damascua and Riyadh.

Our correspondent has learned that on Thursday in Qiryat Shemona, a decision will be made to establish three joint subcommittees among Israel, Lebanon, and the United States. The first will deal with the security arrangements, the second with the withdrawal of forces, and the third with normalization. The subcommittees will convene almost daily, alternately in Lebanon and Israel.

U.S. CONTINGENT OF MNF IN INCIDENT WITH IDF

TA181519 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] U.S. Marines in the Multinational Force [MNF] in Lebanon went on alert last night and even took up firing positions when an IDF unit tried, according to them, to enter into the area they supervise. One of the U.S. sentries who was present there said that the IDF soldiers told them they would like to pass through into the village of Hayy as-Sullum. He refused, and 15 U.S. soldiers, carrying M-16 rifles and submachine guns, climbed on their trucks, as their sergeants said this was not an exercise. They took up firing positions opposite the IDF jeeps, together with 6 Lebanese soldiers who cocked their rifles. The commander of the U.S. force told the Israelis that they could not go through. The jeeps, according to him, stayed for about 10 more minutes and then returned as they came. A U.S. Embassy spokesman in Beirut said that Washington expressed concern over the incident to the Isreali Government and it was promised that such incidents will not recur. An ASSOCIATED PRESS correspondent says this is the fourth or fifth such incident in the last couple of weeks.

Report Denied

TA191015 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Text] IDF units in the Beirut area have been given specific orders not to make contact with soldiers from the Multinational Force stationed in the area.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht tells us that the reports by Beirut correspondents about incidents that allegedly occurred between IDF soldiers and U.S. Marines are groundless. It has been reported that several attacks have been carried out recently by perpetrators coming from the Hayy as-Sullum and Burj al-Barajinah quarters, which are under U.S. control. However, IDF soldiers have been ordered not to pursue the squads into those quarters.

REPORT ON KNESSET DEFENSE COMMITTEE SESSION

TA181352 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Report by Knesset correspondent Arye Golan -- recorded]

[Text] It is worth mentioning that a heated argument between Ge'ula Kohen and Victor Shem-Tov, together with some other members of the Alignment, was held in the presence of Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan, who came to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session for a debate on the lessons drawn from the war in Lebanon. Shlomo Hilil mentioned informational mismanagement during the war, and the chief of staff's reaction was: During the war, the IDF spokesman was faced not only with the foreign media, but he also had problems at home. For example, Eytan said, MK's Yosi Sarid and Shulamit Aloni spread erroneous, exaggerated figures on the number of refugees in Lebanon. Sarid asked for the floor in order to totally deny the chief of staff's remarks. Lt Gen Eytan is distorting my words, he said, and I hope this is being done with no malice aforethought. It would be very grave if the chief of staff misquoted the statements of Knesset members only in order to antagonize and criticize politicians who disagree with him. At this point, Ge'ula Kohen intervened, saying: No propaganda could have helped, she cried, when in the course of the war words of criticism could be heard that were like a stab in the back when the IDF was fighting. Victor Shem-Tov reacted sharply to these remarks, saying: This would be the kind of statement Joseph Goebbels could have made, a stab in the back. You are a student of Goebbels, he called to her. She replied: I was not aware of that. I am familiar with the term used by members of the organized population of Eretz Yisra'el against the secessionists. At the time, they claimed we were stabbing the nation in the back.

When Dani Rosolio demanded that she retract her statement, she agreed and her remarks were subsequently struck off the minutes of the session. So then Victor Shem-Tov, too, asked that his sharp retort at Ge'ula Kohen similarly be erased. Thus, with this reconciliation, and with the reciprocal erasures, the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session adjourned.

TEACHERS IN W. BANK TOLD TO SIGN ANTI-PLO PLEDGE

TA180934 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jan 83 p 3

[Report by David Richardson]

[Text] The Judaea and Samaria civil administration yesterday told four foreign lecturers at the Hebron University that they are to stop teaching immediately unless they sign a new work-permit application that includes an anti-PLO declaration.

A spokesman for the university, Nabil Ja'bari, said that a local civil administration official named Barukh summoned the four lecturers, three Britons and one Irish national, and told them that if they do not stop teaching they may face criminal charges.

No students were able to attend classes yesterday after the Israel Defense Forces placed roadblocks around the school, which until recently was called the Hebron Islamic Institute.

Tension at the university has been high after the arrest over the weekend of 33 students who participated in a pro-PLO rally at Bethlehem University. All the women students detained have been released, but 18 men, including the members of the student council, are being held.

The four lecturers, who all teach English, are members of the faculty of 35 teachers at the university. Twenty Palestinian lecturers were recruited to teach this year, but they did not, refusing to comply with the civil administration's anti-PLO stipulation.

The Israel authorities introduced the demand that lecturers sign the anti-PLO declaration last August. Despite widespread international protest, they have forced several lecturers to leave after refusing to sign the declaration. The foreign faculty have refused to sign on the grounds that the declaration is a political statement.

REPORT ON DISPUTE OVER W. BANK CONSTRUCTION

TA181841 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister David Levi told Deputy Agriculture Minister Mikha'el Deqel that the agreement they reached yesterday about cooperation on building in Judaea and Samaria is null and void. Minister Levi claims that right after the agreement was reached, the Agriculture Ministry released statements contradicting the spirit of the agreement and therefore, he decided to wait for the return of Agriculture Minister Simha Ehrlich, and to coordinate the cooperation in Judaea and Samaria only with him.

Our correspondent Shalom Oren notes that yesterday, in a meeting between David Levi and Mikha'el Deqel, it was agreed to coordinate every construction initiative in Judaea and Samaria beforehand. It was also decided not have any duplication in building settlements and that every recommendation to allot land in the area would come from the Construction and Housing Ministry. The two agreed that this announcement will be issued by the Construction and Housing Ministry, but David Levi says that despite this, the Agriculture Ministry issued its own statements to the media. In his opinion, this proves that the deputy agriculture minister is interested in continuing the dispute.

EGYPTIAN CONSUL TO ELAT TO RETURN TO ISRAEL

TA181009 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jan 83 p 3

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] A senior Egyptian source has told the HA'ARETZ correspondent that the Egyptian consul in Elat, Hasan 'Isa, will return to Elat on 23 January.

The Egyptian source pointed out that the consul had gone to Egypt on leave in order to meet his brother, who had arrived from Europe. According to him, there is no truth in the reports that the consul had left Elat. He also emphasized that his departure on leave had been planned.

According to the source, during his leave in Egypt 'Isa had not met with government elements in order to discuss the Tabah issue.

ACTING EGYPTIAN ENVOY ON MUSLIM STUDENTS' RETURN

TA131403 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Jan 83 p 2

[Report by Muhammad Khalaylah]

[Text] There were no political motives or intentions behind the return of five Israeli Muslim students from Cairo, the acting ambassador at the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv, Muhammad Basyuni, said yesterday.

Basyuni said he contacted the Directorate of the school affiliated with Al-Azhar University in Cairo and he was told that the five students were returned for lack of qualifications. Basyuni made it clear that Egyptian authorities will be willing to accept Muslim students from Israel next year if they meet the demands.

In reaction, the Shar'i judge for Akko and Haifa, (Muhammad Hubayshi), said the five students had not been examined by the Directorate of Al-Azhar and that their selection by the Israeli judges had been in complete coordination with the Egyptian Embassy.

COOPERATION WITH LATIN AMERICA TO CONTINUE

PA170254 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1300 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Jerusalem, 16 Jan (EFE) -- Referring to the nonaligned countries "Managua declaration," an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman told EFE today that Israel "will continue to cooperate with Latin American countries in several aspects."

The nonaligned countries foreign ministers met last week in Managua. They condemned "Israeli intervention" on the continent, particularly in Central America, through the sale of arms.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman told EFE that "these international conferences always end up condemning Israel," and that "this is automatic, be it general condemanation or for specific issues."

Meanwhile, the spokesman for the Defense Ministry had no reply to reports that military experts are in Namibia training guerrillas of the National Union for the Total Independence of Namibia (UNITA) to attack objectives in that country, as claimed by the Angolan News Agency.

POST POLL PREDICTS GAINS FOR WEIZMAN, NAVON

TA180932 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jan 83 p 3

[Report by Mark Segal]

[Text] The appearance of Yitzhaq Navon at the head of a Labour list would earn that party three additional Knesset seats, at the Likud's expense. A centre party led by 'Ezer Weizman would net four seats, mostly from the Likud.

These are some of the findings of a JERUSALEM POST poll conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Institute at the end of December and in the first week of this month among a representative sample of 1,929 adults.

Institute Director Dr Sara Shemer explained that she wished to ascertain political trends at the start of 1983, when the public is guessing which way both President Navon and former Defence Minister Weizman will jump, and what will happen if they return to the political arena.

The question posed was: "If elections were held now and the Likud was headed by Menahem Begin, the Labour by Yitzhaq Navon, a new centre party by 'Ezer Weizman and Shinuy by Amnon Rubinstein, which would you vote for?"

Results were:	MK's
Likud	52
Labour	42
National Religious Party	5
Agudat bloc	4
TAMI	3
Weizman list	4
Telem	-
CRM	2
Shinuy	2
Tehiya	2
RAKAH and others	4

Compared to the results of the January poll on the party's standing (published in last Friday's POST), the Likud would drop by five seats (from 57), Labour would rise by three (from 39) and Telem would lose its one seat, with Tehiya shedding one of the three it won in the earlier poll.

Shemer noted that the involvement of the new faces in politics at this time would not cause any immediate upheaval in the party spectrum. However, it indicates that they do have a voting appeal at their starting point. Although the Likud maintains its primacy in its capacity to form a coalition, the starting point of the alternative coalition forces appears to be fairly advantageous.

TRANSFER OF ENGLISH, FRENCH BROADCASTS REPORTED

TA170824 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jan 83 p 2

[Report by Aharon Sittner]

[Text] Local English- and French-language radio broadcasts will soon be moved from Reshet Dalet (fourth programme) to Reshet Aleph (first programme), the Israel Broadcasting Authority's spokesman confirmed last night.

The move, approved recently by the authority's management board, is expected to create a controversy. The Knesset Presidium will today take up an urgent motion for the agenda by Alignment MK Hayim Herzog on "the serious information blunder about to be perpetrated by the Broadcasting Authority."

Herzog told THE POST last night: "We must act swiftly to forestall a major collapse in our informational efforts. Reshet Aleph is handled by a 217-kw unit.

"Audience surveys indicate that Reshet Dalet programmes are received very clearly all over the Middle East — in Tehran, Riyadh, Cairo and other capitals," said Herzog. Our English and French news bulletins and features are eagerly listened to by diplomats, senior government officials, the press corps and other opinion moulders in neighbouring countries.

"Transferring these broadcasts to the much weaker Reshet Aleph would be senseless and self-defeating, and only undermine our very vital radio information activities."

Herzog added that while Israel broadcasts for 70 minutes a day in English and French, Arab states in the Middle East devote more than 104 broadcast hours a day to programming in these two languages.

"Our dilemma is compounded by the fact that we do not even have an English-language television programme, as does Jordan," Herzog stated.

EL AL PILOTS GO BACK TO WORK 17 JANUARY

TA170802 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] The El Al pilots are returning to work. It was announced this morning, after many hours of deliberations, that they had decided to go back to flying the company's planes. The chairman of the pilots' union, pilot Betzal'el 'Ofer, told our correspondent Beny Rom that the decision was reached in reaction to an appeal of the finance minister to the pilots. Nevertheless, he stressed that El Al pilots do not recognize the validity of the agreement signed between the El Al receiver and the Histadrut, and they reserve the right to continue and act in legal ways against this agreement.

The decision of the pilots was welcomed by the El Al directorate. The directorate stresses that the new work agreement signed with the Histadrut is valid and legal. Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu also expressed satisfaction with the pilots' decision.

The El Al flight to Rome and Zurich will leave Ben-Gurion Airport in about 30 minutes.

BRIEFS

MORE WORKERS FROM TERRITORIES -- The number of workers from the West Bank and Gaza Strip working within the Green Line reached a record 59,793 in December 1982, a jump of 4,172 over the preceding month. The December figure also reflected a rise of 9,875 over the total workers from the territories in December of 1981, according to figures released yesterday by the Employment Service. Of the 59,793 employed last month, 20,114 worked in construction (as opposed to 18,386 in November 1982); 22,434 in industry (21,764 in November); 11,277 in service jobs (10,505); and 5,868 in agriculture (4,966). The regional breakdown last month showed 7,719 workers from the territories employed in the Jerusalem area; 3,354 in Haifa; 6,713 in the Sharon; 5,994 in the Dan region; 22,439 in Tel Aviv; 4,361 in the south; and 5,308 in the Negev. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jan 83 p 3 TA]

TRADE DEFICIT -- The country's trade deficit totaled some $3 billion during 1982, a 18 percent increase over the 1981 level of $2.6B. Figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics showed that the trade deficit was the second largest ever, trailing only the 1979 deficit of $3.1 billion. The rise in the deficit resulted from a 1 percent increase in commodity imports up from $7.85 in 1981 to $7.9 billion last year, and from a decrease in exports, down from $5.3 billion to $4.95 billion. [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jan 83 p 2 TA]

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI PAYS STATE VISIT TO BULGARIA

For Libyan and Bulgarian media coverage of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's state visit to Bulgaria, including reports on Al-Qadhdhafi's arrival, official talks with Bulgarian leaders, and the state dinner in Al-Qadhdhafi's honor, see the Bulgaria section of the 18 January Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

U.S. 'PROVOCATIVE TERRORIST MANEUVERS' NOTED

LD181505 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The U.S. 6th Fleet today is carrying out procative terrorist maneuvers off the Libyan coast, (?according to) aviation sources in Tripoli. These maneuvers are to continue until the 26th of this month. Aircraft and naval vessels are taking part in them.

Thus the American Administration and the pirates of the Pentagon once again confirm the hostile course and the ugliest American penchants for intimidation, threats, and blackmail against peoples who reject American hegemony.

MOROCCO

MORE ON HASSAN MEETING WITH OPPOSITION LEADER

PM181039 Paris LE MONDE in French 15 Jan 83 p 4

[Roland Delcour dispatch: "Mr Bouabid, Leader of the Socialist Opposition, Expresses Satisfaction With His Meeting With King Hassan II"]

[Excerpts] Rabat [date not given] -- Mr Abderrahim Bouabid, first secretary of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces [USFP], the opposition party whose press has been banned since the Casablanca riots on 20 June 1981 and around 200 of whose members are still in prison or awaiting judgment, was received by King Hassan II in Marrakech Wednesday 12 January.

After that 1-hour meeting, which took place in a relaxed atmosphere and made new contacts seem likely, Mr Bouabid told us: "We talked a great deal about French President Mitterrand's reception in Morocco at the end of this month and about Franco-Moroccan relations, as well as the USFP's situation. I found the king very well disposed. We agreed in expressing the hope that the French president will be received by a unanimous Mococco."

[Question] Will the measures expected by the USFP soon be adopted?

"The king," Mr Bouabid replied to us, "did not give me any further details. We talked in a very relaxed way. It was not possible to examine things in detail, but we have great hopes."

Of the subjects discussed during the meeting, the USFP leader cited the Mediterranean and the Arab world in addition to Franco-Moroccan relations. With regard to the Sahara, he said that it was better not to discuss the referendum or its organization too soon. According to him, that was also true of Moroccan-Algerian relations, which should be "allowed to develop." "President Mitterrand's visit will give King Hassan II and me the opportunity for another meeting," Mr Bouabid also said. Socialist circles seemed satisfied with the results of this initial resumption of contacts, which seems to have restored an atmosphere of mutual confidence between the two interlocutors.

ETHIOPIA

HADIS TEDLA MEETS WITH VISITING PDRY MINISTERS

EA181850 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Comrade Hadis Tedla, Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] Standing Committee member, deputy chairman of the National Revolutionary Economic Campaign Central Planning Supreme Council, and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] Executive Committee member, held talks today with two ministers from the PDRY who are on a working visit to revolutionary Ethiopia. The two ministers are Comrades Ahmad 'Ubayd al-Fadli, minister of trade and supply, and Muhammad Sulayman Nasir, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform.

During the talks, Comrade Hadis noted that the relations between the two friendly countries were developing, and expressed his optimism for the success of efforts to develop them further. Comrade Hadis outlined to the ministers the stage of development of the Ethiopian revolution and the situation in the Horn of Africa and explained that the ministers' working visit to revolutionary Ethiopia would reinforce the development of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Comrade Ahmad 'Ubayd al-Fadli spoke about bilateral relations and cooperation and declared that he was satisfied with what he saw in Addis Ababa and the talks he had held with officials in revolutionary Ethiopia. He asked Comrade Hadis to forward a message from Comrade President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, the PDRY leader, to Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the PMAC and of COPWE and commander in chief of the revolutionary army. Present during the talks were: Comrades Chekol, minister of external trade; and Yosef Muleta, minister of farms development.

KENYA

FORMER AIR FORCE GENERAL SENTENCED TO 4-YEAR TERM

EA181833 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The commander of the defunct Kenya Air Force [KAF], Major General Peter Mwagiru Kariuki, was today jailed for a term of 4 years by a court-martial sitting at Langata. Kariuki was accused of failure to prevent and suppress a mutiny between 31 July and 1 August last year.

The court-martial, presided over by an army major general and assisted by Judge-advocate Aragon and a panel of four senior military officers, found Kariuki guilty of the offense. Kariuki had earlier pleaded not guilty. He was represented by Mr Paul Muite while the prosecution was led by an army major. The court-martial also dismissed Kariuki from the armed forces.

Meanwhile, in another court-martial at Langata, a defunct KAF Lieutenant Colonel Joseph (Mwanzi) appeared before the court on charges of failure to prevent and suppress mutiny during last year's August disturbances. The hearing of the accused continues tomorrow.

BORDER TALKS WITH ETHIOPIA REPORTED 17 JAN

EA181508 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Kenya and Ethiopia have reaffirmed their commitment to further the warm and brotherly relations existing between the two countries. Chairing the opening of the 11th Ethiopia-Kenya border talks in Mombasa yesterday, the leader of the Kenya delegation, Mr Benson Kaaria, noted that previous meetings had greatly improved security along the common border of the two countries. Mr Kaaria, who is the [word indistinct] for north eastern province, however said more effort was necessary to maintain the good security situations along the border and to enhance cooperation between the two countries in tracking down criminals and other elements who disrupt security. He paid glowing tribute to the leaders of the two countries who had made the principle of good neighborliness a reality. In reply, the leader of the Ethiopian delegation, Mr Gebriel Habte Selassie, declared that his country gradually will weed off subversive elements who have tried to undermine the good relations between the two countries. He added that the border talks were a traditional mutual contract that should be pursued.

The coast (?provincial commander), Mr Luka Galgalo, assured the delegations of the warmest hospitality in the area. The Ethiopian delegation included the Gamo-Gofa region administrator, Mr Getachew Shibeshi, and the Ethiopian ambassador to Kenya, Mengistu Desta, while the Kenyan side included Mr John Etemesi, and Kenya's ambassador to Ethiopia, Mr Nganatha [name as heard]. Welcoming delegates to the talks, the Mombasa mayor, Councillor Rajab Sumba, said the social, economic, and cultural ties between the two countries were a true manifestation of the cordial relations prevailing among the two nations. He presented Mr Selassie with the council's plaque and invited the delegates to take time off to see what the coast has to offer. Present at the function which was in the mayor's parlor was Deputy Mayor Mwidan, coast [words indistinct] Mr Thuo, and members of the two delegations.

TANZANIA

IMPROVED COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTION URGED

EA181929 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam -- The Central Committee of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi [CCM] National Executive has urged the government to exert greater efforts to see that commodities in short supply reach the people at legal prices through proper distribution. A statement issued by the Publicity Department of the party's main headquarters following a 2-day session of the Central Committee in Dar es Salaam said that the Central Committee considered, among other things, the speech made by the party's chairman, Mwalimu Nyerere, at the new year. The Central Committee emphasized that the decision by the party's National Executive required party leaders to supervize and ensure fair distribution of scarce commodities according to the principles of justice and equity.

The statement also said that the Central Committee agreed to send one delegation to the April Frelimo congress in Maputo, Mozambique, and another at the end of February to the congress of the Sudan's ruling party. The meeting was held at State House under the chairmanship of the CCM chairman, Mwalimu Nyerere. The Central Committee also prepared an agenda for the National Executive meeting scheduled for 21-22 January.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

1983 BUDGET DEFICIT OVER 7 BILLION CFA FRANCS

AB141702 Paris AFP in French 1253 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] Bangui, 14 Jan (AFP) -- The budget deficit in the Central African Republic will reach 7.49 billion CFA francs (FR150 million) in 1983, it was learned on Friday after the budget had been adopted by the Military Committee for National Recovery.

Income was fixed at 36.70 billion CFA francs (FR734 million) and expenditure at 44.19 billion CFA francs (FR882 million). Negotiations are currently underway with the IMF and several countries to finance this deficit. The IMF intends to provide the CAR with a sum of 4.8 billion CFA francs of which 1.04 billion could be directly used for the state budget.

New fiscal measures should make it possible to increase income by 9.6 percent as compared with 1982. Therefore, since the beginning of the year the complementary tax on petroleum products has been increased and the sales tax has increased from 2 percent to 2.5 percent. The customs duties on ivory have been raised. The "exceptional tax," which up to this day was levied on the salaries of civil servants and personnel of public and private sectors, will be maintained. The lower income groups will forgo 5 percent of their salaries while the higher income groups will pay 15 percent and more.

The state financial services have been given greater means in 1983 to look for and to pursue tax evaders. Concerning expenditure, the reduction of personnel in the civil service has been decided upon as of 1 January 1983. A commission in charge of removing "ghost" workers from the civil service has been set up. This effort being made on state operating expenses has resulted in receipts of 200 million CFA francs more than in 1982.

Alphonse Kongolo, Central African minister of economy and finance, who was commenting on the budget to the press, asserted on Thursday evening that "from 1983 to 1985 the economic recovery will develop progressively on the basis of the growth of investments."

ZAIRE

ISRAEL'S SHARON ARRIVES IN KINSHASA 17 JAN

AB181349 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1200 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 17 Jan (AZAP) -- Ariel Sharon, Israeli minister of defense, arrived in Kinshasa on Monday for a 4-day official visit to Zaire. He was met at Ndjili Airport by Vice Admiral Lomponda wa Botende, secretary of state for national defense; Mikhaeli Mikha'el, Israeli ambassador to Kinshasa; and Citizen Mbuze Nsomi, Zaire ambassador to Tel Aviv. Vice Adm Lomponda wa Botende, who received him afterward at the Department of National Defense, welcomed the Israeli minister to Zaire on behalf of the state commissioner for the department. He said that the Israeli minister is not unknown to the Zairian people.

In reply to Vice Adm Lomponda's words of welcome, the Israeli defense minister asked the secretary of state for defense to convey on behalf of his delegation and himself their appreciation for the welcome given them by the Zairian people upon their arrival.

Immediately after this first working meeting, Mr Sharon paid a courtesy visit upon General Singa Boyenge Mosambay, chief of the General Staff of the Zairian Armed Forces, representing the supreme commander of the Zairian Armed Forces, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko.

During these visits, gifts were exchanged between the two delegations.

Comments on Ties With Zaire

TA180805 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0752 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Statement by Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon in Zaire on 18 January -- live or recorded]

[Text] We were received here cordially, and I cannot fail to mention the vast difference I have noted here compared with my previous visit. Then, too, admittedly I was received exceptionally nicely, but the relations have assumed the character of full relations in every sense of the word and in every aspect. The cooperation has deepened in all fields -- political, economic, and security. To see our men, our officers here amid the Zairian officers with friendship and amity and harboring the kind of relations as I have seen them -- I would say that a year ago, when I last visited here, one could hardly have imagined that this is the way things would develop in the course of 12 months, not to mention of course the resumption of diplomatic ties and the visit by Foreign Minister Mr Yitzhaq Shamir. I would say that each of these things is something in itself.

Visits Presidential Brigade

AB181559 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Today is the second day of the friendly and working visit of the Israeli minister of defense, Ariel Sharon, to our country. This second day was marked today by a parade organized this morning at Camp Tshatshi, general headquarters of the Special Presidential Brigade commanded by Colonel Nzimbi. The Israeli defense minister was accompanied to Camp Tshatshi by Vice Admiral Loponda wa Botende, secretary of state for national defense and territorial security. Several military officials participated in this ceremony.

The commander of the Special Presidential Brigade modestly welcomed Minister Sharon to the camp, that complicated home of the brigade, of behalf of the supreme commander of our Zairian Armed Forces, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, the officers, non-commissioned officers, corporals and soldiers of the Special Presidential Brigade. He seized the opportunity to wish him all the best health, prosperity and happiness in the year 1983. Colonel Nzimbi highlighted the aid the Israeli Army has been giving in the training of our parachute units and certain specialized services since soon after our country obtained national sovereignty. He hoped that aid in the training of our military personnel would be intensified. Commander Nzimbi ended his speech by outlining the history of our Special Presidential Brigade.

The ceremony ended with a parade of troops of the Special Presidential Brigade and a few military exercises.

Yesterday the Israeli minister, as you are aware, began official talks with Zairian military officials. In the evening he was guest of honor at a banquet held by Secretary of State for Defense Vice Admiral Lompondo at the Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko officer's mess.

Discusses Army Reorganization

AB181952 Paris AFP in English 1850 GMT 18 Jan 83

[By Jean-Eudes Barbier]

[Text] Kinshasa, Jan 18 (AFP) -- Israeli Defence Minister General Ari'el Sharon discussed the reorganisation of the Zairian Army during continuing talks here today with Zairian Defence Minister Lomponda wa Botende, according to reliable sources here. The two men, who started their talks yesterday, were reported to have concentrated on plans for the future of the Kamanyola Army division based in the mineral-rich Shaba Region. This was the division involved in bloody fighting with dissidents in Shaba's Kolwezi District in 1978.

The Kamanyola Division consists of some 5,000 men divided into nine infantry battalions, and artillery unit and an armoured battalion. Military experts consider it to be poorly equipped and many of its troops are due for retirement, yet it is based close to the borders with Angola and Zambia and is in charge of security around the copper, cobalt and zinc mines.

Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko is believed to have decided several months ago to seek Israeli help in reorganising this division. Little news of the talks was filtering through to the outside, but if it is confirmed that Israeli military aid for Zaire is to be confined to restructuring the Shaba Division, it would tend to back up reports that the authorities here have turned down a recent Israeli offer to reorganise the entire Zairian Army. The sources said that President Mobutu has no intention of relying on a single foreign source in defence matters. France, Belgium and China are all actively involved in training and equipping various Zairian Army units and there was no question of the Kinshasa authorities ending this arrangement, they said.

Last year Israeli advisers completely reorganised Mr Mobutu's Special Presidential Brigade (BSP), and elite unit of 2,000 men. President Mobutu paid Israel eight million dollars in cash for the job, and seven Israeli officers are still serving with BSP headquarters.

Arms Deals Reported

TA181331 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Jan 83 p 1

[Report from Zaire by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpts] Yesterday the chief of staff of Zaire, General Singa, told Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon in their talk in the Zaire Ministry of Defense: "We made a mistake when we severed relations with you. The severance period was difficult and now, when you have returned to cooperation with us, we regard this as a direct continuation of the cooperation from 20 years ago. We have a common language with Israel which we do not find with other nations."

As a result of leaks and negative reactions from Zaire, Israel does not intend to offer Zaire weapons captured in the Lebanon war.

Since Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's secret visit to Zaire 15 months ago, Israel has supplied Zaire with weapons worth millions of dollars and help in training its special units.

More on Arms Deals

TA181335 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Jan 83 pp 1, 7

[Report from Zaire by Ya'ir 'Amiqam]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, who is now on an official visit to Zaire, will meet today with President Mobutu for a first working talk. It appears that the pair will will agree among themselves on the signing of an agreement for a multiyear military cooperation agreement on the basis of the preparatory papers prepared by Major General Avraham Tamir, Sharon's adviser, who visited Zaire last year.

The agreement will apparently include the supplies of surplus Israeli Defence Forces weapons and, among other things, weapons captured in Lebanon. Items from the Israeli security industry and the security aid already being given to the Zaire Army will also continue. Knowledgeable sources have reported that security advisers from Israel have prepared a comprehensive plan for Zaire's security, including the southern Shaba Province, rich in copper.

Mobutu on Military Aid, Ties

TA182004 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko expressed readiness to come to visit Israel. He said this to our military correspondent Dan Scemama. Here is a report we received a few minutes ago.

[Begin recording] [Scemama] Israel will take upon itself the rebuilding of the Kamanyola Division of the Zairian Army, which controls the Shaba area in the southern part of the country. This was revealed to us in a special interview given by Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko. The president had his first talk today with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, aboard his ship. During the talk they discussed strategic (?closure) which is an Israeli concept for building and improving new military units in the Zaire Army in the course of 5 years. According to the plan Israel will take the place of the Belgians in the aid to the unit which is considered the most important unit of the Zaire Army, the Kamanyola in the south. Israel will also establish a few battalions of artillery and mortars and will supply the canons and the mortars. Israel will also establish communication units for the Zaire Army. The plan will take 5 years and when a unit is prepared, the arms will be sent from Israel.

The Zairian president praised the aid given by Israel until now to the presidential division and said that he hopes that Israel will send more military experts to aid the other units. President Mobutu is confident that following the renewal of ties between Israel and Zaire more African countries will renew their ties with Israel.

In answer to my question whether he intends to visit Israel, President Mobutu said that he will come soon, with the aid of God. [end recording]

GHANA

TRIBUNAL TO TRY PROFITEERING, HOARDING CASES

AB181939 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The chairman of the public tribunal, Mr Adu Aikins, today asked people's defense committees and worker's defense committees to make nominations to the price control tribunals which are to be set up soon. These tribunals are to be organized at the regional and district levels. The nominees of the defense committees will be brought before the tribunal for vetting before the regional tribunals are set up. Mr Adu Aikins said the rate at which prices are rising makes it clear that if these tribunals are not set up, the revolution itself will be betrayed. The public tribunals will therefore start trying profiteering and hoarding cases until regional tribunals are established.

Mr Adu Aikins suggested that the government should introduce a more revolutionary distribution system that will make it possible for everybody to get his due share. This, he said, can be done by setting up regional, district, and local depots to serve as people's shops. These people's shops shall be set up through the country for distributing goods through ration cards. This system, he added, can cater for all foodstuff and thereby help reduce prices.

GUINEA-BISSAU

SAUDE MARIA, DELEGATION VISIT YUGOSLAVIA

For Yugoslav media coverage of the visit of Prime Minister Victor Saude Maria and his delegation to Yugoslavia, including talks with President of the State Presidency Petar Stambolic on bilateral cooperation and the Nonaligned Movement, and talks with President of the Federal Executive Council Milka Planinc on the international situation and a toast by Planinc at a dinner she hosted in honor of the prime minister, see the Yugoslavia section of the 18 January Eastern Europe Daily Report and subsequent issues.

NIGERIA

ILLEGAL FOREIGNERS ORDERED TO LEAVE IN 2 WEEKS

AB171537 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] All aliens staying or working illegally in the country have been ordered to leave within a fortnight. Employers of labor in the private sector have also been asked to ensure that all foreigners in their employment who have not got approved expatriate quotas must leave the country within the same period. The order is with immediate effect.

Addressing newsmen in Lagos today, the minister of internal affairs, Alhaji Ali Baba, remarked that it was a fact that citizens of the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, were in employment both in the private and public sectors, adding that this was in contravention of the immigration act. Alhaji Ali pointed out that this flagrant abuse of the laws of the country could no longer be tolerated. The minister warned that in exactly 2 weeks from today government agents would commence inspecting commercial and industrial establishments as well as households with a view to identifying the defaulting aliens and repatriating them. He also announced that the registration of aliens in the country would start on the 14th of next month at the immigration headquarters of all the 19 states and Abuja.

UPPER VOLTA

ENVOY TO GHANA TALKS ABOUT BORDER SKIRMISHES

AB182133 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The head of state, Major Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo, this afternoon granted an audience at the Presidency of the Republic to His Excellency Jean-Paul Bamogho, the ambassador of Upper Volta to Accra. After brief talks with President Ouedraogo, the Upper Voltan diplomat then granted an interview to the national press. Speaking to our colleague (Prosper Basano) of the VOLTA VISION, Mr Bamogho reviewed his talks with the head of state.

[Begin recording] [Bamogho] I was recalled by Michel Kafando, the minister of foreign affairs. There have been some incidents at the border between Ghana and the Upper Volta as you know. I was, therefore, recalled in order to try, together with the minister of foreign affairs and the minister of interior, to find a solution to these incidents which happen quite often. I, therefore, took this opportunity to pay a courtesy call to the head of state, because since the changes in the country on 7 November I have not had the chance to come to Upper Volta. The head of state received me and I briefly reviewed the political and economic situation in Ghana and the head of state, in any case, assured me of his support and his encouragement to continue to work toward the improvement of our relations with our neighbor, which after all is a fraternal country. You know at the border, we sometimes have families with part of the family in Ghana and the other portion in Upper Volta. Therefore, the talks I had with the head of state were at that level.

[Question] With respect to the skirmishes, can you tell us about their nature and seriousness?

[Answer] In fact, the skirmishes you are referring to happen quite often. We have incursions by certain Ghanaian officials into the Upper Voltan territory. And when they cross the border, for instance to go and arrest a Ghanaian who has fled Ghana, this is in violation of Upper Volta's territory. The act is inadmissible from the national point of view. Also, from the international point of view, this act is inconceivable. But then it is not always the Ghanaians who engage in the skirmishes. We also have Upper Voltans engaging in them. The most flagrant case was that of a subprefect not long ago, who went to Ghana along with two or three officials. They were also arrested and sent to Bolgatanga. We have to negotiate for their release.

[Question] Your Excellency, the people are of the opinion that the Ghanaian economy is crumbling during this time with Jerry Rawlings as the Ghanaian head of state. If you were to give a briefing on the situation in Ghana, what would you say?

[Answer] You know, I am a representative of Upper Volta in Ghana. My duty is to do all in my power to strengthen the ties between us. I am only an observer in Ghana. It is impossible to comment on or to evaluate the current economic situation in Ghana. As I told you, I made a short review of this situation to the head of state. It is not my duty, as an observer, to give my view on the economic situation in Ghana.

[Question] What of the state of bilateral relations between Ghana and Upper Volta?

[Answer] Bilateral relations between Ghana and Upper Volta are very good. [end recording].

ANGOLA

UNITA WARNS PORTUGAL AGAINST MILITARY AID

LD182208 Lisbon in Portuguese to Europe 1900 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] In a communique issued by the UNITA Political Bureau and released in Lisbon today, that organization states that any Portuguese nationals who may be seized in the future will not be repatriated.

UNITA accuses Portugal of not helping to promote solutions to the conflict prevailing in that African country. The communique, signed by Jonas Savimbi, says that the MPLA has asked that Portuguese military instructors be sent to Angola in order "to fight the UNITA guerrilla forces who operate throughout the country against the Cuban occupation army."

UNITA further states that resorting to the option of Portuguese military intervention would prove the failure of the Russian-Cuban expeditionary corps.

Another communique released by UNITA states that in the early hours of 13 January the rebels attacked an Angolan military garrison that was buidling a bridge over the (?Saguinguala) River east of the city of Bie. According to the communique, the bridge was destroyed, a few weapons were captured and Sergeant Paulo Elias was captured.

In this connection, NOTICIAS DE PORTUGAL news agency has said that President Eanes has indeed received a message from Angola, but it is not certain that the message concerns military matters.

Claims More Troops Killed

MB181120 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The UNITA movement in Angola claims to have killed 62 government troops and 19 Cubans in a battle at the gates of the southeastern city of Menongue. Menongue is the capital of the province of the Cuando Cubango, which borders Zambia and South-West Africa.

UNITA says in a statement released in Lisbon that its forces attacked a convoy just as it was entering the city. It warned the Angolan Government that there could be no talks with UNITA as long as the war continued. The UNITA leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, recently called for talks with the Government of National Unity. The offer followed direct negotiations between South Africa and Angola on the South-West African issue on the Cape Verde Islands last month.

LESOTHO

STRIKING STUDENTS AGREE TO RESUME CLASSES

MB181701 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] According to a press statement released today by the chairman of the Council of the National University of Lesotho, Mr J.R.L. [Koetsokhuane), students are to resume classes tomorrow. The decision to resume classes follows an emergency special meeting of the council yesterday to consider the events that led to the closure of the university last week. The council emergency meeting was also convened to create a cordial and conducive atmosphere as a prerequisite to desired and meaningful dialogue in a situation in which all members of the university community respected lawfully established authority.

According to the statement, the council has now resolved that classes be resumed on Wednesday, 19 January, and that all steps be taken to restore the normal functioning of the university, and that an ad hoc committee be set up to investigate the issue raised by the students and the committee submit a comprehensive report to the council within the next 10 days.

Meanwhile, the students of the University of Lesotho have accepted the university council resolution at its emergency meeting yesterday. Among the resolutions were: that the refectory manager be removed from the refectory and that the card system which was used to obtain meals be used for a period of 10 days during which another system acceptable to the students and administration should be found.

In an interview with radio Lesotho this afternoon, a spokesman of the Students Representative Council [SRC] said that contrary to this resolution, the administration did not provide students with breakfast this morning and that at lunch the students were only served with ordinary bread and water. The SRC also pointed out that it was shocked that the administration of the university had not recalled those members of the students union who left the campus due to the purported closure of the university on Friday last week.

NAMIBIA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TERM OF OFFICE ENDED 18 JAN

MB190623 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Text] The administrator-general of South-West Africa, Mr Danie Hough, brought to an end the term of office of the National Assembly of the territory at midnight last night and assumed all government functions. The step follows the resignation of the chairman of the Council of Ministers, Mr Dirk Mudge, in protest against what he describes as the South African Government's handling of the affairs of South-West Africa. This resulted in the automatic dissolution of the Council of Ministers. The term of office of the National Assembly was due to expire on the 28 February.

In his executive functions, Mr Hough will be assisted by a chief executive officer, to which post the provincial secretary of Natal, Mr J.F. (Grieve) has been appointed. Mr (Grieve) will assume office on Friday. The administrator-general will be the only legislative authority at central government level. The various departments of the central government will remain unchanged and will perform their functions as in the past, except that they will now be answerable to the administrator general.

Mr Hough says he and the chief executive officer will be assisted by committees similar to the Council of Ministers. Experts from the private sector will be invited to serve on the committees. Mr Hough stresses that the execution of government authority by the administrator general should be seen purely as an interim measure. He says it remains the view of the South Africa Government that the people of South-West Africa should determine their own future, and South Africa still sees internationally acceptable independence for South-West Africa as vitally important.

SOUTH AFRICA

GOVERNMENT SILENT ON TALKS WITH ANGOLA

MB181322 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The South African Government has refused to comment on reports that a second round of discussions with the Angolans is being planned. It was reported in Lisbon that go-between Foreign Minister of Cape Verde Silvino da Luz has flown to Luanda to synchronize the last details of the meeting.

Angola and South Africa met in secret on the Cape Verde Islands in December. Observers said the talks probably centered on South African and American demands that 30,000 Cuban troops leave Angola as part of the Namibian peace plan. Observers say the second meeting would have to be before 28 January when Parliament reopens and cabinet ministers would be expected to attend the ceremony.

SWAZILAND

'CONFIDENTIAL' TALKS HELD ON ANC EXILES

MB181151 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 18 Jan 83 p 1

[By Chris Freimond, political reporter]

[Excerpts] Confidential talks were held in Swaziland yesterday on the future of 17 African National Congress exiles who refused to remain in "protective detention" because they feared an attack.

It was reported in Mbabane yesterday that the journalists, who sparked the exodus from the Mawelawela refugee camp when they photographed it, work for a South African newspaper.

Swaziland's deputy prime minister, Senator Ben Nsibandze, confirmed yesterday that the 17 exiles left the camp on Friday. He declined to say where they were, or what would become of them.

They had been in detention since December 16 when ANC refugees were rounded up after the SA Defence Force raid on the ANC in Lesotho. At first 27 were detained and more arrested later. Earlier this month 17 left voluntarily for Maputo.

Informed sources said a group of exiles -- headed by the ANC's acting representative in Swaziland, Mr Ablom Duma, who had been in detention -- and the representative of the UN high commissioner for refugees, Mr E. Owusu, held talks with Senator Nsibandze yesterday, indicating that plans may be underway to move the exiles out of the country.

ZAMBIA

KAUNDA ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT 14 JANUARY

MB171528 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Address by President Kenneth Kaunda at the official opening of a new session of Parliament in Lusaka on 14 January -- live]

[Excerpts] [Words indistinct] which marks the end of our 5-year mandate won at the beginning of this session. This means that at an appropriate time this year, we must go to the people to seek a fresh mandate from them. This means at this stage [words indistinct] as leaders of the people. We have no powers of our own, except those which are entrusted to us by the people. This is the essence of democracy.

The system of periodic mandate-seeking from the people underscores our good sentiments to the principles of true and unshakeable democracy. These principles compel us to wage a victorious struggle against foreign domination. Since independence, we have freedom to create the best conditions possible for every Zambian to exercise his or her rights to choose the leadership of this nation. The system of one-party participatory democracy is the outcome of these efforts.

We shall continue to do so in future. In this regard, I wish to reaffirm my total commitment to the continued task of building in Zambia a true democratic order in all the five main areas of human endeavor. I shall continue to do this according to the guidelines of the philosophy of humanism.

As we prepare to go to the country, it is necessary to reflect on the roles of honorable members of this house in our one-party participatory democracy. If we want to seek a new mandate, we must understand what all this means. We must not seek the people's mandate in vain. In our situation today, it is so easy to think of parliamentary elections as a means of a livelihood. We must not regard membership of Parliament as merely an employment which gives us a handsome salary. If one is seeking the people's mandate for this motive, one is certainly debasing the role of this house and abusing the mandate given to one by the people. [applause] The people's mandate bestows on us a heavy responsibility. This responsibility means giving up our lives for the welfare of the people; indeed, it means we must agree to serve our people wholeheartedly in truth and with love.

Mr Speaker, in a one-party participatory democracy, this house epitomizes unity of interest and not divergency of interest. It serves the interest of all the people. These interests are reflected in the resolutions which we try to make from time to time. Those of us who are willing to come or return to the house must, therefore, come here to strengthen the unity of the nation and to enhance people's interest. This house is one of the symbols of our freedom. It is a freedom to those who sacrificed so much for our freedom and independence. The best tribute we can give to these heroes is to dedicate ourselves to the defense of the fruits of their labor, namely, freedom and independence.

The house bestows on us certain privileges so that we can speak freely without risking legal sanctions. This is a natural consequence of the mandate given to us by the people. It is nevertheless assumed that no honorable member of this house who is desirous of strengthening this nation will deliberately want to use this privilege to commit subversion against the state. Serving this house, none of us has the privilege to subvert -- none. Yet in the last 4 years some members of this house have deliberately engaged themselves in attempts to undermine and ridicule the authority of the party and the government. Fortunately, these have been few.

Mr Speaker, this house is a serious mind of the people. It is not for those who spend their time on frivolities and subversion. If this behavior by some honorable members does not stop, the people will begin to question the role of the entire house. I want to make it clear -- very clear -- that the party will not allow anybody to undermine the constitution of the republic.

Mr Speaker, with the completion of the registration of voters the stage is now set for the general elections. The people have responded enthusiastically to the registration of voters. This is most pleasing and I want to take this opportunity to congratulate them for responding so well to the campaign for the registration of voters. May I also thank the various leaders in the party, and those officials in the civil service who worked so hard to make the campaign a success. [applause] It was a job extremely well done under very difficult conditions.

Mr Speaker, the people will once again be given the opportunity to choose their own leaders. This is the right for which we struggled so hard and for which some of our comrades and compatriots died. The people, under the guidance of the party, should use this right to give the party and its government leaders who honestly devote their time to the pursuit of the things that are needed directly in and in a positive way in the lives of the people. The party wants dedicated leaders who are committed to its socialist program.

Since the coming into being of the one-party participatory democracy, we have conducted our elections peacefully. This has been the direct result of the one-party participatory democracy system. Intensive rivalries which characterized every general election in the period before the present system are no longer there. We must commend ourselves for this achievement. It has to be hoped, therefore, we must strive to ensure that peace shall prevail throughout this year. This is the challenge we, in this house, and the people as a whole, face from now onward.

Mr Speaker, I would like now to deal with foreign affairs. As this house is aware, Zambia places great importance on global peace, for peace is the foundation of man's progress. Without peace, we cannot achieve the objectives we have set ourselves. For this reason, we shall continue to urge the superpowers to work for peace. We want them to cooperate in making the world safe and better for us all. We want them to do more for the poor, the sick, and the hungry and less on the production of weapons of death. It is sad to note that since I last addressed this house, all the international situations have not changed for the better. The relations between superpowers are not at their best. There has been no significant improvement on the question of detente. The big power pressures on the small and weak developing countries for influence and domination have increased. The problems of southern Africa, the Middle East and South-East Asia remain unresolved. We are helpless [words indistinct] of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament. And it proved to be so crucial to the very survival of mankind.

There have been several attempts to subvert and to destroy the OAU and the Nonaligned Movement. There were failures, too, on the economic front. The North-South dialogue and attempts at restructuring relations into a new international economic order that will be applicable to the rest of the world. This, Mr speaker and honorable members of this house, will be the situation in which we find ourselves at the beginning of this year. Against this background, I would like to restate our position on some of the major issues that confront us in our interstate relations.

I shall first deal with Africa's problems, Mr Speaker, several attempts by the enemies of our continent to wreck the pan-African organization nearly succeeded, through the failure and [words indistinct] to hold the OAU summit in Tripoli, last year. Fortunately, the OAU, though limping, is not dead. I know that the OAU will once again become strong. We badly need a strong OAU. The struggles in South Africa and Namibia need the united voice of Africa. The struggles for economic independence [words indistinct] also requires a united Africa. Therefore, no efforts should be spared to convene the 19th OAU summit.

Southern Africa: Mr Speaker, Southern Africa remains Zambia's first priority [words indistinct] concern. This concern is based on two grounds: Firstly, because [words indistinct] and secondly, because our economic development, peace, and tranquility are linked to the problems on this region. The same issues are the independence of Nambia and the elimination of apartheid in South Africa. Let us know look at Namibia and South Africa itself.

Mr Speaker, we are deeply concerned at the continued illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa. Zambia, together with other members of the frontline states and Nigeria, cooperated closely with members of the Western contact group of five in an attempt to convince South Africa to accept the United Nations formula to solve the Namibian problem. But South Africa has kept on frustrating the opportunities which can bring about the independence of Namibia through peaceful means. [Words indistinct] of the intransigence of South Africa has now come up. This is the United States' extension of her ideological war with Cuba to the Nambian question. The United States has succeeded in influencing South Africa to link the independence of Namibia to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola to the diappointment of the peace-loving world.

Zambia, Mr Speaker, continues to pay for the cost of this linkage. The date of Namibia's independence and the presence of Cuban troops in Angola are two separate issues. They should not be linked at all, for such linkage only serves to delay the independence of Namibia.

[Words indistinct] we call upon South Africa and the United States to listen to what the world says, and having done this, to stop their insistence on the question of parallel withdrawal of the (?commissioning) of the independence of Nambia.

South Africa: Mr Speaker, during 1982, South Africa continued to practice apartheid despite appeals from the international community to abolish the diabolical policy. Throughout 1982, South Africa continued to detain, imprison, and execute political prisoners. African political parties and liberation movements are still banned. This is an unacceptable situation. We remain committed to our opposition to apartheid and our support for the liberation movements without (failing) to bring a better political order to South Africa. In the interest of humanity and international morality, truth, social justice, and fair play, we appeal to all peace-loving people to continue to support the struggle.

Good neighborliness: Mr Speaker, our relations with our neighbors are good. We shall continue to pursue an active policy of good neighborliness. To this end, we held with governments a number of joint permanent commissions with most of neighboring countries. So far, Zambia has established joint permanent commissions with Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zaire, and Zimbabwe. Through these commissions bilateral and regional matters, both in the political and economic fields, are dealt with. Furthermore, in an effort to lessen their dependence on South Africa, nine countries of southern Africa have, as you know, formed the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference, SADCC. Recently, the preferential trade area, PTA, whose headquarters is in Lusaka, was launched last year. All these bonds (?spring forth) not only bilateral and regional bodies, but also the parent body -- the Organization of African Unity.

The economy: Mr Speaker, I now come to the economic situation in this country. I shall first deal with the general world economic situation. The world economic situation deteriorated further in 1982. The current recession deepened and became widespread.

The economies of the industrialized countries showed no [words indistinct] signs of recovery. Inflationary pressures persisted and unemployment continued to increase in almost all the industrialized countries. Response to the [words indistinct] increases of oil prices between 1973 and 1980, the real output of industrialized countries became stagnant in 1980, beginning a slowdown in the economic performance. The slowdown continued through 1982 as many of these economies sought to curtail inflation through restrictive demands on management policies. These measures, however, failed to promote economic recovery.

Copper prices deteriorated further in 1982 and remained at an economic level for the whole year. Average copper prices, above . (?1,000) per ton for the second part of 1982, were by no means sufficient to enable the vast majority of copper producers all over the world to cover their current production costs. As a constant [words indistinct] copper prices, Zambia suffered further deterioration in her attempt to bring under control her foreign exchange difficulties.

Despite these foreign exchange problems arising out of an innumerative copper prices, [as heard] the overall economic situation prevailing in the country was one of marked stability. No serious shortages of essential commodities were experienced anywhere in the country. In order to make up for the deficit in the maize production in 1981-1982 season, the government imported maize at a total cost of 38 million kwacha in order to keep regular supplies of mealie meal in the market. Likewise, the supply of essential commodities in the market kept pace with the demands, and distribution of these commodities in the rural and outlying areas showed definite improvement in 1982.

Through a judicious and pragmatic management of the economy, the party and its government were able to ward off any serious economic crisis developing in the country. Production of copper improved and was higher than in 1981 by nearly 10 percent. The party and its government also ensured that the Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines adopted effective cost-saving measures in order to make its operations somewhat economic. As a result, Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines was able to cut costs of production by over 100 million kwacha in 1982. The other sectors which performed better in 1982 as compared with their levels in 1981 were: electricity, gas, and motor construction, wholesale and retail trade [words indistinct] valued added in manufacturing fell below its 1981 level by over 5 percent. Other sectors which showed a fall in (?further) output in 1982 as compared with their levels in 1981 were: agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; and Telex, transport and communications.

In the manufacturing industry sector, the annual plan for 1982 [as heard] envisage the setting up of Small Industries Development Organization, SIDO, and for the actual launching of a systematically grown-up program of setting up of small-scale and rural industries in all parts of the country, particularly in the rural areas. Unfortunately, not much progress has been achieved in this direction. Speedy implementation of this program is very essential if the party and its government are to mitigate the rising unemployment problems among the youth, and taking economic development to the rural areas. All offices concerned with determination and implementation of the small-scale and rural program must see to it that the program is launched and implemented in earnest in 1983.

Mr Speaker, I invite the house and all fellow Zambians to take pride and rejoice in the many achievements which we have scored in the economic field. Over the past 15 years, we have not made sound judgements: waiting for someone to do things for us, to build this country for us. With our own hands and with our own heads, we have built this country up from the [words indistinct] that it was into the beauty, joy, progress that it is today. [applause] Are these no matter for pride, for self-congratulation? We have been independent for only 18 years, but see what we have done: roads upon roads; schools upon schools, university and other institutions of higher learning. Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority, TAZARA, huge hydroelectric schemes, vast industrial complex schemes such as nitrogen and chemicals of Zambia; exploiting factories, the Ndola plant [words indistinct]. The record, Mr Speaker, is an envious one. The expansion in [words indistinct] and industries, the increase in hotel and tourist facilities; yet all these and more. We the people of Zambia have achieved, regulated by the very laws which you honorable members of this house have passed. And we will achieve more. [applause]

We should take pride, Mr Speaker, in these things because it is not every independent country whose economic life is managed by its own indigenous people, [words indistinct] but there is even more to be proud of and to cherish and share it with our people.

Mr Speaker and honorable members, our survival demands the support for all the measures which the party and its government have taken and will take to restore the economy. These measures include a strict exchange rate adjustment; a decision to reschedule the national debt [words indistinct] education and health care for all, and indeed further employment opportunities for all and not just a few. I call upon this house to put forward ideas which will assure the prosperity that belong to the country [words indistinct].

Mr Speaker, it is now my pleasure to declare this fifth session of the fourth National Assembly officially open. May God guide and keep you all. God bless the republic and thank you. [applause.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE LEAVES FOR 3-NATION TOUR 19 JAN

MB181721 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, leaves Harare tomorrow morning on a three-nation tour which will take him to the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria, Malta, and the United Republic of Tanzania. A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Comrade Mugabe will be accompanied by his wife, Comrade Sally Mugabe; the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Mangwende; the minister of trade and commerce, Comrade Hove; the minister of justice, Comrade Mubako; the minister of natural resources and tourism, Comrade Victoria Chitepo, and senior government officials.

MINISTER PROPOSES RENEWED STATE OF EMERGENCY

MB181849 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The minister of home affairs, Comrade Ushewokundze, has given notice to the House of Assembly, that he will move to have the state of emergency renewed. Comrade Ushewokundze was speaking in Harare today, when Parliament resumed its sitting after a 4-month break. If the motion is passed, it will be the sixth time that the state of emergency will be renewed since independence, and it will continue for another 6 months.